

*Oral Questions*

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Towers:** Not only is the Minister saying that he is not going to pay, but he is taking \$1,200 out of the farmer's pocket this year.

## REQUEST FOR CHANGE IN POLICY

**Mr. Gordon Towers (Red Deer):** Madam Speaker, the Government had better change its mind on that, and had better do it quickly. When will the Minister change his mind as far as the policy of the Government is concerned?

**Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Minister of Transport):** Madam Speaker, before the Hon Member gets all convoluted in his indignation, I think we simply go back to the formula which was established. We base it on a five-year average. The 1982 index was about \$400 million above that average. As far as 1983 is concerned, those calculations are not made until the end of October, 1985. When those calculations are in, of course the matter will come under review and the Minister will make that decision. We are saying that as far as the 1982 crop year is concerned, payout was substantially above that five-year average, and the Hon. Member should know that.

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## AIR CANADA

## OVERHEATING OF TOILET PUMP

**Hon. Don Mazankowski (Vegreville):** Madam Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Transport. It has been drawn to my attention that another incident occurred aboard an Air Canada DC-9 jetliner involving the seizing and overheating of a toilet pump in the washroom with the potential for very serious consequences. Since this comes on the heels of the Cincinnati tragedy, and on the heels of a very favourable internal report conducted for Air Canada on its technical and procedural maintenance standards, what steps will the Minister take to ensure that another Cincinnati tragedy does not occur?

**Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Minister of Transport):** Madam Speaker, I can confirm to the Hon. Member that indeed late Friday afternoon another incident took place aboard an Air Canada DC-9. It was immediately investigated by both Air Canada officials and Transport investigators. That particular malfunctioning has been corrected. However, as a precautionary measure we have undertaken first to issue an airworthiness directive today requiring a daily check of the pump facilities in all the lavatories on Air Canada. Second, I will be ordering a replacement of the particular model of pump which caused the problem both in this latest incident and in the Cincinnati case. We are taking these as precautionary measures, as well as looking at the over-all safety performance under the Air Canada audit which my Department has under way.

## OPERATING AND MAINTENANCE PROCEDURES

**Hon. Don Mazankowski (Vegreville):** Madam Speaker, in a more general context, since the recent internal audit carried out with respect to Air Canada on its operating and technical procedures produced a very favourable report for Air Canada, does the Minister not think in light of this incident that it would be necessary to take some further steps such as a more broad investigation into the technical, operating and maintenance procedures of Air Canada, to ensure that passenger confidence is restored? Surely an incident like this will do nothing more than undermine passenger confidence and the confidence of those who are potential passengers of Air Canada. Is the Minister considering anything further in a broader context to investigate these procedures?

**Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Minister of Transport):** Madam Speaker, the first thing I would like to do in answer to the Hon. Member is to give assurances that steps have now been taken in relation to the particular problem that has to be faced. They really are quite extraordinary measures. We are requiring, to underline the point, a daily check of the particular piece of equipment to ensure that there are no problems at all, and the direct replacement of that piece of equipment in a phased period so that it will be totally new.

As to the larger issue, that is indeed what we are now doing. We ordered a complete operational, management and safety audit of Air Canada operations at the beginning of September. That is now under way, and I should have the results in a matter of three or four weeks. The Air Canada report which was prepared by Captain Buck for the purposes of Air Canada's management has been forwarded to the team which is undertaking the audit. It will be incorporated as part of the report, and that report will be made public by me so that Canadians and Members of the House will be fully aware of the assessments which will have been made.

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● (1500)

## PETITIONS

## MS. McDONALD—BROADCASTING ACT

**Madam Speaker:** I have the honour to inform the House that the petition presented by the Hon. Member for Broadview-Greenwood (Ms. McDonald) on Monday, October 3, meets the requirements of the Standing Orders as to form.

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## PRIVILEGE

## MR. DOMM—ACTIONS OF METRIC COMMISSIONER

**Madam Speaker:** Before recognizing the Hon. Member for Peterborough (Mr. Domm), I remind him that he did not take the opportunity to bring this question before the House at the earliest possible opportunity. He did send me a notice that he