

private fortunes both in Canada and in the United States. Has the Prime Minister consulted Mr. Teron about this latest exploit?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Not directly Mr. Teron, Mr. Speaker, but I have been informed of the dispositions he intends to take during his leave of absence. I think the government should congratulate itself upon being able to keep men of this high standard and calibre in the service of the government, rather than having them return to the private sector where they could make a hell of a lot more money.

Mr. Oberle: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. According to an article in the *Globe and Mail* of yesterday, Mr. Teron said that he has been advised by friends, or consulted by friends—and the Prime Minister is one of his personal friends—who are telling him that he must be “an idealist or a fool” to continue what he is doing. Which of these two attributes does the Prime Minister ascribe to Mr. Teron, and which of them is best suited to Mr. Teron carrying on his portfolio?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, I am a friend of Mr. Teron, but I can assure the hon. member that he did not consult me on this matter. As far as the hon. member is concerned, he is not a friend. If I were to ask myself if he was an idealist or a fool, I would be using one word too many; I know which he is.

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AIR TRANSPORT

LIABILITY TO DEPENDANTS OF DECEASED IN CRASH AT CRANBROOK, B.C.

Mr. John A. Fraser (Vancouver South): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Transport. The *Vancouver Province* of last Wednesday quoted the minister as saying that it was impossible for the federal government to join in a pool which would expedite early payment to dependants of the deceased in the very tragic Cranbrook crash of a few months ago. Can the minister tell the House what the difficulty is, and why his ministry felt it could not take part in that pool?

● (1132)

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, the difficulty is the legal one of not being in a position to pay money in these circumstances, as distinct from circumstances of established liability.

Mr. Fraser: Mr. Speaker, as I understand the situation, the first step would be to establish a pool and then to determine the liability of all those entering into the pool. Is the difficulty within federal statutes, or does the difficulty to which the minister alludes lie in the framing of a provincial statute?

Mr. Lang: Mr. Speaker, I had reference to the federal position, the federal law and lack of authority to pay such

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money in the circumstances. I have made it clear that we are quite prepared to involve ourselves in a negotiating team in an attempt to resolve the issues of liability and damages as quickly and as effectively as possible. But the advice I have been given is that we could not pay over money in the circumstances which were outlined to us.

Mr. Fraser: Mr. Speaker, can the minister tell the House whether the difficulty is in existing federal legislation or does it refer to the regulations? I ask that question seriously, because if it is the regulations, under the circumstances the minister has the right and power to make adjustments to them to suit this case. If it is in federal legislation, even that could be changed, given the seriousness of this particular incident.

Mr. Lang: Mr. Speaker, I am sure that if there were a simple change open to me to allow this to happen, it would have been drawn to my attention. The advice is that there is lack of legal authority to make a payment which would require some form of legislative action. I am not sure that the legislative solution would be so simple as to be accomplished in the time we may have available.

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[Translation]

FISHERIES

GOVERNMENT SUBSIDY OF TWO CENTS PER POUND FOR GROUND FISH

Mr. Albert Béchard (Bonaventure-Îles-de-la-Madeleine): My question is directed to the Minister of Fisheries and the Environment, but in his absence, I will put it to his parliamentary secretary. Could he tell the House whether the Department of Fisheries has decided to abandon the excellent policy it had put forward a few years ago to guarantee a reasonable income to fishermen in difficulty, and which provided for a two cents a pound subsidy for groundfish? If so, would the minister be prepared to reconsider his decision, at least until that resource has come back to normal?

[English]

Mr. Hugh A. Anderson (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Fisheries and the Environment): Mr. Speaker, the minister is aware of the request for a subsidy for groundfish. I understand an announcement will be made shortly regarding such subsidy, and I trust the hon. member will be patient until it is made.

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VETERANS AFFAIRS

REQUEST INCREASE IN DISABILITY PENSION NOT BE TREATED AS INCOME

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Veterans Affairs; it