

I have been told that such simulations take place on a routine basis and I can only rejoice that these dead and injured are just simulated and not real casualties. However, I will seriously further this inquiry and provide the hon. member with the opinions expressed by the experts. Anyway I can assure him that all efforts are being made to improve airport safety in Canada.

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[English]

### COMMUNICATIONS

#### EARTH STATIONS IN NORTHERN AREAS—GOVERNMENT POSITION

**Miss Pat Carney (Vancouver Centre):** Madam Speaker, I wish to direct my question to the Minister of Communications and ask him to clarify his earlier remark that his department was going to follow current policy with regard to the operation of illegal earth stations. As the minister is aware, the operation of the earth stations involved in the north is illegal. Is he suggesting that he is going to condone this illegal action, go for an interim licence arrangement or have the RCMP look into closing them down?

**Hon. Francis Fox (Secretary of State and Minister of Communications):** Madam Speaker, I refer to the fact that I answered this type of question a number of times in previous months, particularly in the spring and late summer. We do not intend at the moment to close down the operations in the north. We intend to address the problem, first of all, by trying to provide northern and remote communities with an adequate package of Canadian television services. When that is done, we would expect operators in those areas who are licensees, people who would be licensed by the CRTC at that time, to reorient their dishes toward Canadian satellites.

#### FRENCH PROGRAM TRANSMISSION IN NORTHERN AREAS

**Hon. Erik Nielsen (Yukon):** Madam Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Minister of Communications. In view of the fact that one of these operations in Whitehorse, Yukon, has been required to cease and desist day-long transmission entirely in French transmitted from the city of Montreal, and cannot renew transmission until cleared by the CRTC, will the minister explain whether he knows of this requirement? If so, will he perhaps hasten the approval of the transmission of French programming in the Yukon so that we in that part of the country can share in a very worth-while bilingual program?

● (1500)

**Hon. Francis Fox (Secretary of State and Minister of Communications):** Madam Speaker, I am not sure if I understood the hon. member quite clearly. In any event, I am not aware of the specific instance he has brought to my attention. I will look into it and see what can be done as soon as possible.

*Point of Order—Mr. W. Baker*

### AGRICULTURE

#### ACCESS OF CANADIAN FARMERS TO UCO ELEVATOR

**Mr. Robert Daudlin (Essex-Kent):** Madam Speaker, my question is addressed to the Minister of Agriculture. Given the substantial sums of money which were expended by the federal government for construction of the UCO elevator in the Essex area, given the nature of the direction behind the expenditure, namely that the farmers of Essex would have first access to that elevator, and the fact that they are now being refused access to the elevator because it is full, would the minister advise whether he is aware of the problem, whether in fact, as stated, the elevator is full of American product, and whether in fact it is still the intention of his ministry to ensure Canadians that they will have access to those elevators first?

**Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture):** Madam Speaker, we have received some representations about the inadequacy of the whole system and about its not being able to handle soybeans in particular. One of the main reasons is the abundant crop in southwestern Ontario this year. All facilities are plugged to the top, and we are thankful that we have so much. Much of it is in the position of being exported and it is moving. We hope that this will alleviate the situation. According to what I was told last week, this situation is not brought about because of imported beans either at the Windsor elevator or at the Port Colborne elevator. It was practically all domestic produce which was there.

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### POINTS OF ORDER

#### MR. BAKER (NEPEAN-CARLETON)—POSTPONEMENT OF SPEAKER'S RULING

**Hon. Walter Baker (Nepean-Carleton):** Madam Speaker, I understand that you are prepared today to rule on the questions of privilege standing in the names of the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Clark) and the hon. member for Wellington-Dufferin-Simcoe (Mr. Beatty). This is an allotted day, and a short day at that. I have spoken to both hon. members and, in view of the circumstances, I wonder if you would be prepared to defer your ruling until tomorrow in order to save some time.

**Some hon. Members:** No.

**Madam Speaker:** Yes, I am prepared to defer the ruling until tomorrow—

**Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton):** Thank you very much Madam Speaker.

**Madam Speaker:**—because having looked at the arguments of the hon. member for Wellington-Dufferin-Simcoe (Mr. Beatty), I decided that I would hear the hon. member for Yukon (Mr. Nielsen), so therefore I shall defer until tomorrow.