

Oral Questions

minister tell the House whether in fact he has had such a request and, if so, what the stand of his department is on it?

Hon. Bob Kaplan (Solicitor General): Madam Speaker, might I underline first of all that the government does not make those types of decisions; they fall within the independent responsibility of the Parole Board. I have been advised by that board that it has not yet reached a decision in the matter of Paul Rose.

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[English]

THE CONSTITUTION

SPECIAL JOINT COMMITTEE—RECEIPT OF LETTER BY JOINT CHAIRMAN

Hon. Walter Baker (Nepean-Carleton): Madam Speaker, I have a question for the hon. member for Hochelaga-Maison-neuve, in his capacity as one of the joint chairmen of the committee on the constitution, with respect to the business before the committee. As the matter of the televising and broadcasting of the committee's proceedings is not closed, can the joint chairman of the committee tell me when he received the letter of August 13, 1980, from whom was that letter received, and what did he do with it after he received it and before it was produced to the committee?

[Translation]

Mr. Serge Joyal (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Treasury Board): If Madam Speaker allows me, of course I will answer the question put to me by the opposition House leader. The letter was brought to my knowledge this morning by the clerk of the House attached to the committee at the time when I heard of a suggestion originating from a colleague of the hon. member asking committee members to study the possibility of televising and broadcasting the debates of the committee.

That was the first time I read the letter, although during previous discussions about gathering the necessary information on procedures I had already met the clerk, but he did not raise with me the point contained in the letter from Madam Speaker. It was this morning, therefore, that I learned of the existence of that letter. Having received and read the letter I asked that it be photocopied for distribution to members of the committee. Having read it and heard comments from various members of the committee I came to the conclusion that the interpretation given by Madam Speaker to the Standing Orders of the House was that broadcasting and televising the debates of a committee fell within the purview of the House of Commons.

[English]

Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton): I have a supplementary question for the hon. member for Don Valley East—

Some hon. Members: Order.

An hon. Member: He is chairman of the committee.

Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton):—with respect to the business of his committee. Could he tell the House when he delivered the letter to his colleague, the hon. member for Hochelaga-Maisonneuve, when he received it, whether he gave it to any minister and, if so, to whom?

Mr. David Smith (Don Valley East): Madam Speaker, may I say through you to the hon. member that I never forwarded the reply to the hon. member for Hochelaga-Maisonneuve.

Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton): To anybody else?

Mr. Smith: The seven members of the committee were aware of the reply from Madam Speaker. I do not recall that any other person was sent a copy of it.

Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton): There are seven Liberal members.

Mr. Smith: No, there are two Conservative members and one NDP member.

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AIRPORTS

TORONTO ISLAND—IMPROVED FACILITIES FOR STOL AIRCRAFT

Mr. Don Blenkarn (Mississauga South): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport. The minister will know that his department has prepared detailed costs for improving facilities at Toronto Island Airport so that they could be used for STOL aviation to Ottawa and other points in Ontario, that the cost of this improvement is only \$5 million and that the revenue would indicate a pay-back in four years. Will the minister set aside the money immediately to allow that work to be done at the Toronto Island Airport so that the public can take advantage of STOL aircraft service from Toronto?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Transport): Madam Speaker, with regard to the cost of preparing the Toronto airport for STOL, I do not share the certainty of my hon. friend. I have seen estimates that are not as clear as the figures indicated here. What I intend to do on STOL is, first, to meet, as soon as circumstances will allow, the committee which is constituted of federal participants, officials of my department, members of the regional municipal council, members of the Toronto municipal council and officials of the government of Ontario. I will be meeting them in the coming days to assess what degree of enthusiasm there is on their part for this project. That is one of the first things I will do.

● (1500)

The second thing—and I am doing it now—is finding out if in the estimates of my own department there could be some money allocated for that purpose, but obviously other levels of government would have to do their share.