

MULTICULTURALISM

REQUEST FOR PUBLICATION OF EVALUATION STUDY OF USE OF LANGUAGES OTHER THAN ENGLISH AND FRENCH

Mr. Steven E. Paproski (Edmonton Centre): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question having to do with another topic. Would the minister release the evaluation study of the use in Canada of languages other than English and French, and in particular Italian, Ukrainian and German?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, I hope the hon. member will be indulgent enough to let me have a look at it. Before doing so, I do not think I can answer the hon. member's question.

Mr. Paproski: Mr. Speaker, we can see there has been a demise of the multicultural program since Dr. Stanley Haidasz has been fired.

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PUBLIC SERVICE

POSSIBLE STRIKE OF ASSISTANT AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS—GOVERNMENT ACTION

Mr. Elmer MacKay (Central Nova): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Labour concerning problems that seem to be developing in Air Canada with the walk-out of assistant air traffic controllers, continuing negotiations with CALPA, and there are reports that other personnel may be considering strikes or walk-outs. Has the minister any report to give us, or are we faced with another disruption of our country's air services?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, with reference to this particular dispute, since employees of the federal government are involved I think the hon. member's question should more appropriately be directed to the President of the Treasury Board.

Mr. MacKay: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I will be glad to accept the minister's suggestion, though I keep in mind that on another occasion when I asked him a question concerning the CALPA negotiations he said I had the wrong department, and later on he had to recant and say that I was right in the first place. I ask the President of the Treasury Board what reports he has for the House and the country concerning the very serious situation that seems to be developing in Air Canada.

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Chrétien (President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, as far as I am concerned, negotiations are progressing well at this time and I have nothing special to announce to the House.

[English]

POSSIBLE STRIKE OF ASSISTANT AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS—GOVERNMENT ACTION AGAINST THOSE PARTICIPATING IN ILLEGAL STRIKES

Mr. Otto Jelinek (High Park-Humber Valley): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question which I will

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direct to the President of the Treasury Board. It deals with statements made during the last illegal postal strike by the minister's predecessor regarding the possible prosecution of those taking part in illegal strikes in this country, and that, to use his own words, they would not be tolerated any longer. Now, we are faced once again with a disruptive walk-out by the assistant air traffic controllers, would the minister therefore indicate to the House what positive steps will be taken to deal with those taking part in these and any future illegal strikes as a result of the former minister's promise, or is the government changing its mind on the matter as well?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Chrétien (President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, I am happy to see that the hon. member agrees on the statement made by my predecessor. We intend to put this policy in practice while using proper judgment according to the various circumstances we will have to face.

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[English]

NATIONAL DEFENCE

DOWNSVIEW AIR BASE—POSSIBILITY OF RELEASING LAND FOR HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Bob Kaplan (York Centre): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National Defence. In view of the shortage of housing in Toronto, does the government intend to give up excess land at Downsview air base so that some land can be made available for this purpose?

Hon. James Richardson (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, the Department of National Defence is aware of the need for housing property in North York. Several years ago it released some 70 acres of land to Crown Assets Disposal Corporation, but we have no plans to release any other part of Downsview as it is needed for operational purposes.

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HOUSING

SUGGESTED INCREASE IN FUNDS FOR ASSISTED HOME OWNERSHIP PROGRAM—AVERAGE EFFECTIVE RATE OF INTEREST ON MORTGAGES—POSSIBLE SHIFT IN POLICY

Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of State for Urban Affairs. In view of the reduction in the rate of housing starts on an annual basis by some 70,000 units, is the government giving consideration to increasing the budget of the assisted home ownership program to \$1 billion?

Hon. Barney Danson (Minister of State for Urban Affairs): Mr. Speaker, without accepting the hon. member's figure, may I say we are considering every possible alternative so as to increase housing stock and reduce the decline in housing starts in the coming year.

Mr. Orlikow: A supplementary question. In view of the fact that most mortgages have been negotiated at 9½ per