

Oral Questions

could be considered as accomplices if they did not act with proper legal authority.

Mr. Allmand: Mr. Speaker, the hon. member is quite correct. The other day I promised to give the House as much information as possible, including information on the point raised.

GOVERNMENT POSITION ON ILLEGAL ACTS BY FORCE

Mr. R. Gordon L. Fairweather (Fundy-Royal): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a supplementary question to the Solicitor General. As everyone is aware how serious this matter is, will the Solicitor General make an unequivocal statement to the effect that the Government of Canada does not condone in any way such illegal acts and that there is no justification for such illegality.

Hon. Warren Allmand (Solicitor General): Yes, Mr. Speaker, I can give that assurance to the House. The direction of the government to the RCMP is this: the members of the force are not to act illegally in any way. Mr. Samson alleged that an illegal act had taken place. We shall investigate that, and shall see if there are any incidents of a similar nature.

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ANTI-INFLATION BOARD

APPLICATION OF RESTRAINT GUIDELINES TO STAFF—
POSSIBLE INCREASE IN NUMBER OF COMPANIES UNDER
CONTROL PROGRAM

Mr. Sinclair Stevens (York-Simcoe): Mr. Speaker, may I direct my question to the Acting Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. As the staff of the Anti-Inflation Board of Canada is now almost as big as was the comparable staff operating in the United States at the peak of that country's control operation, although our country is only one-tenth the size of the United States, and as the Anti-Inflation Board is under the control of the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs, will the acting minister say if the restraint guidelines which apply to other federal government agencies apply also to the Anti-Inflation Board. If so, which guidelines apply and how stringently are they applied?

Hon. Bryce Mackasey (Acting Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, just as stringently as necessary, but not so stringently that the board cannot operate.

Mr. Stevens: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. As the Anti-Inflation Board now regulates eight times as many companies as the United States board regulated at the height of phase II of the comparable program in that country, does the minister think that the AIB's propensity to regulate more and more firms will continue, or does he think that the rate at which the board will bring firms under control in future will decrease?

Mr. Mackasey: Mr. Speaker, the whole question of regulation is at the disposal of the Anti-Inflation Board which is within the purview of the Minister of Finance. The hon.

[Mr. MacKay.]

gentleman ought to direct that question to that minister when he returns on Monday.

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THE MINISTRY

DATE OF APPOINTMENT OF MINISTER OF CONSUMER AND
CORPORATE AFFAIRS

Mr. Sinclair Stevens (York-Simcoe): Mr. Speaker, may I direct my final supplementary question to the Acting Prime Minister. Noting that the former Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs said he was resigning because he felt that his continuation in office would jeopardize the efficiency and value of his department in its work for consumers, and since the acting minister bears a great load on his shoulders in connection with other matters, would the Acting Prime Minister inform the House if it is proposed to appoint a new minister and, if so, when?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I must say the acting minister is doing an excellent job, but that was not the only consideration. He would not take another ministry. However, I will consult with the Prime Minister and I will tell him how urgently the hon. member thinks another appointment is necessary. I know he would not want to reflect upon the present acting minister.

Mr. Forrestall: I would not bet on that.

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AIR TRANSPORT

POSSIBILITY TRANSAIR WILL BE CARRIER TO PROVIDE
REGIONAL SERVICE TO WESTERN MANITOBA AND EASTERN
SASKATCHEWAN

Hon. W. G. Dinsdale (Brandon-Souris): My question is for the Minister of Transport, Mr. Speaker. Now that the minister has arrived at a complete impasse in his negotiations with the province of Manitoba with respect to providing an air service for western Manitoba and eastern Saskatchewan, would he indicate whether Ottawa is considering going it alone and would one of the solutions contemplated be the offer of the regional carrier Transair to provide a daily jet service in this important area of Canada?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I am reviewing the option of going it alone in trying to ensure a service to some of the communities which have been involved in the previous discussions. Now that, as the hon. member says, an impasse has been arrived at, with Manitoba clearly not willing to put in as much money as they had been willing to put in when their own Skywest project was considered, I have had discussions with the communities concerned and I am very conscious of their desires, at least as reflected through certain spokesmen, and the option to which the hon. member refers is certainly one at which I am looking.