

[Translation]

AIR TRANSPORT

ACCIDENT INVOLVING AIR GASPÉ PLANE—MEASURES TO ASSURE SAFETY OF PASSENGERS

Mr. Alexandre Cyr (Gaspé): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Transport.

As a result of the numerous accidents Air Gaspé has had, of which the most recent occurred Monday, and in view of the answer the minister gave the House on the 19th, does he intend to take emergency measures to ensure the security of passengers on that eastern Quebec airline?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, we have asked Air Gaspé to appoint an air comptroller immediately. The company has had repeated accidents and the security of its passengers is threatened. If the company does not submit to our requirements, we will doubtless have to decide whether or not to cancel its license.

* * *

[English]

PUBLIC SERVICE

REQUEST FOR HOLIDAY ON DECEMBER 24—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Walter Baker (Grenville-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Prime Minister. In view of the fact that there is only one working day between this weekend and the statutory holiday of Christmas day for public servants, and because at Christmas it is better to give than receive, will the Prime Minister advise the House whether the government will give public servants Christmas eve as a day off and not require the opening of offices in order to facilitate travel and family planning?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I must advise the House that I am not the minister responsible for the public service, but I will discuss the matter with the minister to see what the facts are and to consider the suggestion of the hon. member.

* * *

SPORTS

COMMONWEALTH GAMES IN NEW ZEALAND—CANADIAN REPRESENTATION—ALLEGED PROMISE OF PAYMENT TO EDMONTON FOR BRITISH COMMONWEALTH GAMES

Mr. Steven E. Paproski (Edmonton Centre): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National Health and Welfare. In view of the fact that New Zealand is having the British Commonwealth Games in February, will the minister advise the House who in his department is to represent Canada at the British Commonwealth Games in New Zealand?

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare): I would hope, Mr. Speaker, if it is possible, that indeed I will have the honour to represent Canada on that occasion.

Oral Questions

Mr. Paproski: Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary. Because it is better to give than receive, would the Minister of National Health and Welfare please tell the House when he expects to give that \$15 million to Edmonton for the British Empire Games which the former Minister of State, Pat Mahoney, promised to Edmonton a couple of years ago?

Mr. Lalonde: As usual, Mr. Speaker, the hon. member is wrong.

Mr. Paproski: Mr. Speaker, I should like to just say the minister is wrong. I was at a meeting in Edmonton at the Jubilee Auditorium when the former Minister of State said explicitly to 2,700 people in Edmonton that the federal government would soon give them \$15 million for the British Commonwealth Games. That was before the last election.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The Chair will recognize the hon. member for Scarborough East and then call orders of the day.

* * *

DRUGS

GOVERNMENT POSITION ON LEDAIN COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION CONCERNING MARIJUANA

Mr. Reg Stackhouse (Scarborough East): Mr. Speaker, my question is also for the Minister of National Health and Welfare. In view of the recommendations of the LeDain Commission, I wonder whether the minister would give the House the assurance that the government is not planning to seek legalization of marijuana, cannabis and such drugs?

● (1210)

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare): The government's position on marijuana was expressed last year by my predecessor, and I have stated since then that the government continues to endorse the position stated by the government last year. So there has been no change in the government's policy. I hope that in the course of the next year we will be able to produce appropriate legislation to bring into effect the proposed changes that were put forward by my predecessor.

Mr. Stackhouse: Is the House to interpret the answer of the minister as meaning that the government will extend the legalization of these drugs?

Mr. Lalonde: I would only refer the hon. member to the well-known and oft-repeated statement that has been made during the course of the last year. The policy is the same as it was. The hon. member should not attempt to distort the situation by allegations such as the ones he is making.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member rises on a question of privilege. He will be recognized for that purpose, after which, as I said, we will have to call orders of the day.