

Oral Questions

[Translation]

Mr. Chrétien: Mr. Speaker, I agree that there is a resolution of the House to that effect, but the House will understand that it is important to make up the best group possible. I apologize to the House for having to take a few extra days to do it, but I prefer to do my job as well as I can.

[English]

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Gander-Twillingate has a supplementary question to the previous question.

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AIR CANADA

RESERVATION SERVICE FOR OTTAWA RESIDENTS—
TRANSFER TO OTTAWA AIRPORT FROM MONTREAL

Mr. John Lundrigan (Gander-Twillingate): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport and concerns Air Canada. Can the minister confirm that Air Canada has plans to transfer part of the company's information service to the Ottawa international airport and, if so, when will this take place?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): I have not been personally informed, Mr. Speaker. I spoke to the president of Air Canada on this matter but I do not know whether they have immediate plans for relocating the service.

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AIRPORTS

PROVISION OF SUFFICIENT SPACE AND PROPER
ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY CHECK-OUTS

Mr. A. P. Gleave (Saskatoon-Biggan): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Transport which is supplementary to the question asked by the hon. member for Brant. What plans are in hand to establish space and proper organization within airports so that security inspections can be properly carried out with some comfort for passengers?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I think I answered the question just a few minutes ago. As the hon. member knows, the bill to amend the Aeronautics Act will be before the House very soon. At that time we will have to work out with the airport authorities and the airline companies how we are going to implement the new act. The only authority there is now rests with the airlines themselves and not with the airport authority. We have no legal authority to carry out these inspections. In the meantime we have to rely on the right of the airlines to accept or refuse passengers on the basis of the private contracts they have with passengers. This is why there is this kind of confusion.

[Miss MacDonald (Kingston and the Islands).]

[Translation]

TRANSPORT

ESTABLISHMENT OF MERCHANT MARINE—MINISTER'S
POSITION

Mr. René Matte (Champlain): Mr. Speaker, I wish to ask a question of the Minister of Transport.

Will the minister soon take appropriate measures to establish a truly Canadian merchant navy?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, according to the Menzies report, in order for Canada to have a merchant navy, not only would huge subsidies have to be granted but we would have to have our ships built abroad. This does not exclude the creation of a merchant navy, but it means that other ways will have to be found to achieve this aim, which I would like to make possible, if ever it is indicated it is profitable.

Mr. Jean-Marie Boisvert (Drummond): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question.

Mr. Speaker: I give the floor to the hon. member for Drummond for a supplementary question.

Mr. Boisvert: Could the Minister of Transport tell us the impact on present unemployment rate of the establishment of a merchant navy?

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): Mr. Speaker, this question is hypothetical.

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[English]

INCOME TAX

DELAY IN MAKING REFUNDS TO THOSE OVER 65, THE
BLIND, DISABLED AND STUDENTS

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister. Now that the government has given a good deal of advice to Canadians on how to fill out their 1972 tax returns, has the Prime Minister any advice to give to those Canadians over 65, to students, the blind and the disabled who have applied for refunds in respect of 1972 income but whose applications cannot be processed because the legislation which was supposed to be retroactive to January 1, 1972, has not been passed? Has the Prime Minister any advice to give to those poor unfortunate Canadians?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Yes, Mr. Speaker, that they will be obtaining relief when the tax measure is passed with the support, I am sure, of all parties in the House. That poor, unfortunate condition described by the Leader of the Opposition will then be relieved thanks to the government's measure.

Mr. Stanfield: It's a poor way to run the country.

[Later:]

Mr. Paul Dick (Lanark-Renfrew-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, my question is supplementary to that of the Leader of the Opposition. I should like to ask the Minister of Finance whether or not these people who have paid their taxes on