Oral Questions

AIRPORTS

DORVAL AND MIRABEL—FUTURE COSTS

Mr. Pat Nowlan (Annapolis Valley-Hants): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the President of the Treasury Board as the minister primarily responsible for controlling government expenditure. Has the minister's department made an assessment of government expenditure in relation to the proposed transfer of airport facilities from Dorval to Mirabel? Without getting into the detail of that assessment, is the government expenditure going to be higher or lower if such a move is made?

• (1430)

Hon. Donald J. Johnston (President of the Treasury Board): Madam Speaker, the question is entirely hypothetical because the Minister of Transport has made no announcement with respect to the proposed move at this time. Accordingly, I do not think it would be appropriate for me to comment on the cost of a move which has not taken place and which has not yet even been dealt with at the cabinet level.

Mr. Nowlan: Madam Speaker, in view of the answer given by the minister, which does not surprise me, I would like to ask the Prime Minister a question.

LIBERAL CAUCUS ADVICE

Mr. Pat Nowlan (Annapolis Valley-Hants): Madam Speaker, in view of the suggested hypothetical nature of my question about something that has been in the newspapers for months, could the Prime Minister tell the House, to remove uncertainty at least as far as Dorval and Mirabel are concerned, regardless of all the other large economic questions, if this week's Liberal caucus is going to come up with some advice to the ministry so that a decision could be made on this matter, which is solely within the control of the ministry and does not involve the United States or anchovies off Peru?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Madam Speaker, I do not honestly know if the matter will come up in caucus. It may; it may not. I know it has come up in previous caucuses. The minister is well informed. The matter will be going to committee next week, as the hon. member knows, and then we will hear views from all sides on it. Maybe we will hear views even from the Tory party.

Mr. Nowlan: You have had our views, Sir.

UREA FORMALDEHYDE INSULATION ACT

PROGRESS THROUGH SECOND READING

Mr. Geoff Scott (Hamilton-Wentworth): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. What has happened to Bill C-109, the bill that provides remedial measures for UFFI victims? Would one reason why the government has not brought back the bill for

second reading be that it is under heavy pressure from members on all sides of this House, including the minister's own Liberal caucus, to change the bill to make it much more substantial in terms of compensation?

Hon. André Ouellet (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Madam Speaker, I think the hon. member should talk to his House leader. There is no doubt that Members of Parliament on both sides of the House feel the urgency to pass this measure which would allow victims of urea formaldehyde foam insulation to receive help from the Canadian government. We are ready to pay up to \$5,000 to each Canadian who has to repair his or her home. Bill C-109 has been before Parliament already on three occasions. I hope the opposition will refrain from giving their speeches because what is at stake exclusively is the principle of paying money to these home owners.

Mr. Clark: That is untrue.

Mr. Ouellet: Indeed, the bill should be sent to a committee. I hope the Conservative Party which has so far filibustered the bill will stop doing that and allow the bill to go to committee as soon as possible.

Mr. Clark: That is another falsehood.

Mr. Scott (Hamilton-Wentworth): Madam Speaker, on the two occasions when Bill C-109 was brought forward we put up three speakers, both on May 10 and on May 31. We have one speaker left. That is hardly filibustering such an important bill. We want to get it through second reading and into committee as soon as possible.

REPORT OF BOARD OF REVIEW INQUIRING INTO UREA FORMALDEHYDE FOAM INSULATION

Mr. Geoff Scott (Hamilton-Wentworth): Madam Speaker, could the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs give us a status report on the board of review inquiry into the hazardous nature of UFFI? Is the minister sitting on the report because of some important new evidence about the foam? Will the minister, in any event, make a commitment so that we can get that report before the committee to examine its recommendations before we head into another long hot summer which will further aggravate the concerns of UFFI victims?

Hon. André Ouellet (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Madam Speaker, I am certainly not sitting on the report. I have not received it. I indicated to Parliament that, as soon as this report is received, I will make it public. That is my undertaking. I am anxious to receive this report. One member of the board of review was ill and as a result there has been some delay in the final preparation. I reported this fact to the parliamentary committee which was looking into my estimates. The hon, member knows this.

As far as the discussion of the bill is concerned, on the two occasions involved members of the Conservative Party were