

Mr. McGrath: In view of the provincial jurisdiction in this respect with regard to any contingency plan, is it the government's policy that its contingency plan would be based on a situation in which food prices, inflation and unemployment would affect the peace, order and good government of the country? Is that the type of contingency plan the government has?

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): The hon. member is looking for a legal opinion, and that makes it difficult for me to answer.

* * *

SHIPPING

DARLING REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS RESPECTING COASTAL TRADE—GOVERNMENT JURISDICTION

Mr. Harry Olausson (Coast Chilcotin): Mr. Speaker, pursuing the St. Valentine's Day question further, can the Minister of Transport inform the House, as a result of his decision to consult with the maritime provinces, whether marine activities as dealt with in the Darling report come under federal jurisdiction or provincial jurisdiction?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I never mentioned that I had to meet with the premiers in order to decide jurisdiction. But if we decide to abandon the Commonwealth agreement on coastal trade this will have an impact on rates and the cost of transportation. I want to discuss this problem with the premiers, not because we do not have jurisdiction but because they will be affected.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The Chair will recognize the hon. member for Burnaby-Richmond-Delta and then call orders of the day.

* * *

AIRPORTS

VANCOUVER INTERNATIONAL—REQUEST THAT MINISTER OF TRANSPORT MEET PEOPLE AFFECTED BY EXPROPRIATIONS

Mr. John Reynolds (Burnaby-Richmond-Delta): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Transport. In view of the fact he stated today in the House that he will visit the people of Ste. Scholastique if they ask him to do so, has he had a change of heart and will he visit the people of Sea Island? If he has not had a change of heart, why does he continue to ignore the pleas of the people of Vancouver, including the mayor, that he visit the area involved and try to solve the problem?

• (1540)

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I have good news for the hon. gentleman. I think he mentioned at the beginning of this session that they were short of information. The people have received all the information they need about the second runway that we want to build.

Oral Questions

Mr. Reynolds: Mr. Speaker, the minister still has not answered my question. The people still do not have that information. I want to know why, if he will visit the people of Ste. Scholastique, he will not visit the people of Vancouver?

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): Mr. Speaker, they now have all the information. I will wait to see whether they need to be visited later.

Mr. Speaker: Orders of the day.

* * *

FISHERIES

HERRING—PLACENTIA AND ST. MARY'S BAYS—REQUEST FOR STUDY OF STOCKS AND QUOTAS

Mr. Walter C. Carter (St. John's West): On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, I have been trying to get Your Honour's eye for some time in order to ask a question of the Minister of Fisheries on a matter which is extremely urgent and important to a large number of people in my riding.

Mr. Speaker: I appreciate the point that the hon. member is making, but I must bring to the attention of the hon. member for St. John's West that we have gone beyond the time allowed for the question period. He seeks the floor on a point of order. The Chair, of course, has no objection, but he will appreciate that he is not the only one who has not been recognized. I have made a note to ensure that the hon. member will be given priority tomorrow. However, with the consent of the House perhaps he might be allowed to ask his question quickly and get a quick response from the minister.

Mr. Carter: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Fisheries and relates to a motion under Standing Order 43 which I presented concerning the catch quotas set by the Department of Fisheries with respect to herring fishermen operating in Placentia Bay and St. Mary's Bay, Newfoundland. In view of the fact that the fishermen have made representations to the minister about the quotas, expressing certain fears as to the possibility of depletion, would the minister undertake to have a scientific investigation made to determine the size of the herring stocks in those bays? Until such time as this information is available, would the minister also impose closing lines as a conservation measure?

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of Fisheries): Mr. Speaker, scientific investigations are already under way. We will not be imposing closing lines immediately because the local herring management committee, on which the fishermen were represented, recommended against it.

Mr. Carter: Will the minister tell the House if the quota to which the fishermen are objecting was set on the basis of scientific information or was it just a figure plucked out of the air, as it were, by the Department of Fisheries?

Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I am sure the committee and the scientists supporting it were trying to be as factual as possible.