

Oral Questions

he very much regretted that the job vacancy survey had been discontinued. This is of significant importance to him, and he recommended that it be reintroduced. What has the minister done with that recommendation? Has he accepted it? Has he discussed it with his colleagues in order to see that this very important survey is reintroduced?

● (1452)

Mr. Cullen: I commend my deputy minister for commenting in such a forthright way about the valuable use my department made of that particular statistic. However, as I have indicated, there are many projects which I would have liked, and which the deputy minister and others would have liked, which have had to be dropped. In the interest of saving, another department of government has decided that this is a project which should not, in fact, be kept alive.

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AIR CANADA**REQUEST FOR ASSURANCE HOLIDAY SERVICES WILL NOT BE DISRUPTED**

Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Dartmouth-Halifax East): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Transport and Minister of Justice. I trust he is fully aware of today's public relations release by Air Canada with respect to the corporation's pilot problem.

May I ask him, first of all, whether he is seized of the release, if he is satisfied with it and, more important, whether or not he is prepared either today or later this week to give some assurance to the flying public that notwithstanding pilots having in large numbers "flown out" the contractual hours allowed, there will be no interruption or disruption of essential holiday services next month?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Transport and Minister of Justice): I am literally seized with it, Mr. Speaker: it came into my hands a few minutes ago as a consequence, perhaps, of notice from the hon. member's office that he intended to raise the matter. I have not had a chance to read it thoroughly, and I want to do that before replying to the hon. member's question.

Mr. Forrestall: One very brief supplementary, Mr. Speaker. I hope I am right in assuming that the minister was not aware of the difficulty facing Air Canada with respect to flying hours available to the pilots. I hope he will take careful notice, within his department, of their knowledge of the rate at which this situation was building up; the failure by Air Canada to exercise its internal management responsibilities to ensure that such a situation did not exist; to ensure that he or his senior officials had not been advised of this, and that he did not take earlier, corrective action to offset or negate the very serious situation which exists and which puts Air Canada in the position of having this problem in manning aircraft because their pilots do not have left over flying hours.

[Mr. Alexander.]

I ask that question because of the obvious implications to safety and the convenience of the flying public. Does he know whether he had ever been advised?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member's definition of a brief supplementary is quite different from mine.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Lang: Mr. Speaker, I have not had this matter brought to my attention. I can assure the hon. member that my departmental safety officials will see to it that all the ordinary safety rules are adhered to and that there will be no problem in that respect.

I think the question which has been raised relates, essentially, to a management problem, and in this release, as far as I can see, Air Canada is, in fact, explaining how it came to be in its present difficulty. We will both look at it together at a later time.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**SAFEGUARDS APPLIED ON SALE OF CANADIAN NUCLEAR REACTORS**

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. The Latin America Economic Report carries a statement from Buenos Aires which quotes Admiral Madero, president of the National Atomic Energy Commission of Argentina, as saying work will soon begin on the building of an experimental plutonium reprocessing plant. The report goes on to say that the plant could supply enough reprocessed material to develop a nuclear weapon and keep Argentina firmly ahead of Brazil in the arms race.

I want to ask the minister whether this development has been brought to his attention, and whether the safeguards entered into between Canada and the nations which are recipients of Canadian reactors give the minister power to take action with regard to such a development and, if so, does he intend to take action?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Secretary of State for External Affairs): I do not know of the quotation to which the hon. member refers. I deeply regret it, if it was made in that context, because our whole effort in Latin America, as elsewhere, has been to achieve total recognition of the non-proliferation treaty and, most particularly, a limitation on the reprocessing aspect which, as the hon. member recognizes, is extremely hazardous and dangerous.

Rather than give an off-the-cuff answer with regard to the safeguards, I would ask the hon. member's indulgence to allow me to look up the treaty. I can say, in passing, that I suspect the safeguards are such that we can prohibit the kind of reprocessing to which he has referred. But I will take the question as notice, look into it and give the hon. gentleman a specific answer.