

TAXATION

ESTATE AND GIFT TAX PROPOSALS—RESPONSE TO
PROVINCIAL REQUESTS FOR DELAY

Mr. Doug Rowland (Selkirk): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister. Has he yet replied to the letter which he received from the first ministers of the provinces in which they asked for a deferral of one year on the estate and gift tax proposals now before the House? If he has replied, what is the nature of the reply?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, no substantial reply was sent as far as I know.

Mr. Rowland: Does the government intend to send a substantial reply to the first ministers?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, the best reply would be the position the government takes in the House when the bill is passed. We cannot reply to the hypothetical situation as to what will happen if the bill is delayed past January 1, the date that the premiers mentioned in their letter to me.

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SHIPPING

VANCOUVER HARBOUR—ALLEGED PRIORITY TO
MOVEMENT OF GOODS DESTINED TO OR EMANATING
FROM UNITED STATES

Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport. Because of the unprecedented volume of traffic in and out of Vancouver Harbour due to the strikes in United States Pacific coast ports, and in view of persistent reports of priority being accorded to the movement of commodities destined to or emanating from the United States, to the detriment of Canadian goods, would the minister report to the House just what the situation is because, as he is well aware, many western newspapers have become very concerned about this matter and the Canadian public are writing and asking whether they are second-class citizens?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I was in Vancouver yesterday and discussed this matter at length with the marine representatives of my department there and I asked for a full report. On the basis of the verbal replies that were given to me at that time I think I can say that I am satisfied that no preference is being given to American shipments. I have asked for a written report and will make it available to the House and to the hon. member as soon as it is received, which should be within a few days.

[Translation]

REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION

CHEMCELL LIMITED—POSSIBILITY OF KEEPING
MONTMAGNY PLANT IN OPERATION

Mr. Adrien Lambert (Bellechasse): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion.

Inquiries of the Ministry

As it is getting more and more obvious that Chemcell Limited is definitely going to close its plant at Montmagny, can the minister tell the House whether any business firm has asked for a grant toward the purchase of the Chemcell buildings in order to set up some other type of production in Montmagny, which would benefit the local workers?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): I am not aware of that, Mr. Speaker. I shall look into it and inform the hon. member.

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[English]

AIRPORTS

DEVELOPMENT OF MONTREAL AS DISTRIBUTION
CENTRE FOR AIR CARGO—STE. SCHOLASTIQUE PROJECT

Mr. S. Perry Ryan (Spadina): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport. Is the federal government working closely with the government of Quebec to develop a strategy to accelerate Montreal's growth and make Montreal into a North American distribution centre for all types of air cargo? If so, when will a statement be made?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, in so far as the specific matter of co-operation is concerned, I know that discussions have been going on with my officials but I do not have too many details with regard to them. I can tell the hon. member, however, that we are working closely with Chambers of Commerce and other groups in Toronto, Calgary, Edmonton and Vancouver and all major centres to facilitate all these airports and make them as effective and beneficial to their areas as possible.

Mr. Ryan: As many of the major airlines want to have the Toronto international airport site developed for both passenger and air cargo services, and therefore the Ste. Scholastique site in Quebec may become a white elephant, will the government postpone any commitment to the government of Quebec and the Montreal Urban Commission in this regard until the economic feasibility is thoroughly proven?

• (2:40 p.m.)

Mr. Jamieson: Most emphatically no, Mr. Speaker. We will proceed with the development of Ste. Scholastique at the most rapid rate possible, as we will with development in the southwestern part of Ontario. When people speak of white elephants, I remind the House and the hon. member that ten years ago they told us we were out of our minds for building as large as we were in both Toronto and Montreal and we all know what has happened.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!