

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

**Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of National Defence):** Not exactly a formal report, Mr. Speaker. As I mentioned in the House several times, there has been an evaluation by mobile command and air transport command of their participation in the recent emergency. I would expect that the results might be included in discussions of the aid to the civil power aspect of the defence white paper.

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**AIR TRANSPORT****CHARTER SERVICES—REGULATIONS TO PREVENT CARRIERS DEFAULTING ON FLIGHT UNDERTAKINGS**

**Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct my question to the affable and somewhat overworked Minister of Transport. In view of the concern expressed over irregularities in the use by some airlines of enormous amounts of funds received from air charter flight groups, is the minister planning any regulations that would prevent a carrier defaulting before the trip or failing to show up to bring back passengers from a charter flight?

**Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, the whole issue of air charters and the regulation of them is now under active consideration both within Canada and internationally. I might add as an aside that we are also engaged in bilateral negotiations with the United States on the question of protection of passengers. A few days ago I indicated in the House that we do have regulations under the Canadian Transport Commission requiring that protection be provided but these at the present time are the cause and source of some difficulties which were referred to in the House a few days ago.

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**PUBLIC WORKS****NORTHUMBERLAND CAUSEWAY—REQUESTS BY PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND AND NEW BRUNSWICK FOR ASSISTANCE**

**Mr. David MacDonald (Egmont):** Mr. Speaker, my question is really supplementary to a question asked a moment ago by the hon. member for Hillsborough. It will be directed to the Acting Prime Minister. In view of the increased interest by the provinces of New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island in the construction of the Northumberland Causeway, has either of these governments requested from the federal government assistance in the planning stage or possible financial assistance?

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I am not personally aware of this but will make inquiries.

[Mr. Ritchie.]

**NORTHERN AFFAIRS****KING CHRISTIAN ISLAND—REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON GAS WELL BLOWOUT**

**Mr. Randolph Harding (Kootenay West):** Mr. Speaker, last Wednesday I directed a question to the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. I should like to pose it now to the minister. Would he make a statement on motions on the natural gas blowout on King Christian Island which has now meant a loss of over four billion cubic feet of natural gas and is having a serious ecological effect on Canada's northland?

[Translation]

**Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development):** Mr. Speaker, I can advise the House immediately.

They have not yet succeeded in putting out the fire involved. It is hoped, I have been told, that the digging of the supplementary well undertaken in order to put out the fire will be completed shortly, and that the first efforts aimed at the definite control of the fire may be undertaken next week.

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[English]

**POST OFFICE****SPECIAL BOXES FOR FIRST CLASS MAIL—FIVE-DAY DELIVERY**

**Mr. S. Perry Ryan (Spadina):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister without Portfolio responsible for the Post Office. Will the new program in respect of special mail boxes for first class mail guarantee delivery the next day of all early afternoon mailings, and how will this square with five days a week delivery?

[Translation]

**Hon. Jean-Pierre Côté (Minister without Portfolio):** Mr. Speaker, I would appreciate it if I were not led to deliver today the whole speech I have to make in Toronto on Monday.

● (12:00 noon)

**GOVERNMENT ORDERS**

[English]

**CROP INSURANCE ACT****AMENDMENT TO INCREASE EXTENDED COVERAGE**

**Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (for the Minister of Agriculture)** moved that Bill C-185, to amend the Crop Insurance Act, be read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Agriculture.