AIRPORTS

ALLOCATION OF SPACE TO CAR RENTAL COMPANIES— CLASSIFICATION OF AUTO MANUFACTURERS

Mr. Walter Baker (Grenville-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, I would like to return to the matter of the letting of contracts which was first referred to the Minister of Transport. Would the minister confirm that in the criteria with respect to the applications for counter space major auto manufacturers must be classified only under the open counter provisions of the criteria?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, that would likely be true. I would like to double-check that because if there are any which could classify as domestic, it does not come to my mind, but obviously the test for the distinction was between those which were essentially, if you like, foreign in the nature of doing the bulk of their business in a foreign country and domestic in the sense of doing their business here. However, obviously on a highly technical question like that I would be glad to have the written question and answer in detail.

ALLOCATION OF SPACE TO CAR RENTAL COMPANIES—REASON FOR ALLOCATION TO OTTAWA MOTORS

Mr. Walter Baker (Grenville-Carleton): When the minister is checking that point, would he also look into the reason why Ottawa Motors received the local counter space at the Ottawa Airport, in light of the fact that Ottawa Motors is under the Ford Rent-a-Car system? In other words, that company is one of the major auto manufacturers, and it would appear, on the surface in any event, to have crept in under another classification.

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Transport): I would certainly be glad to look into that. The local bid, of course, was designed essentially for a local operator who was not in the car rental business elsewhere.

[Translation]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

REQUEST THAT INDIAN GOVERNMENT CHARGE MISS LECLERC

Mr. Raynald Guay (Lévis): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Since I put my question last October 20 concerning Marie-Andrée Leclerc, I wonder what is going on because it seems to me that the government is not very anxious to intervene in this matter. There seems to be an enormous difference between what the government tells us concerning Marie-Andrée Leclerc's conditions of life and of detention and what she says in a letter she recently sent to her parents. So, I ask once again to the Canadian government to make pressure on the Indian government so that Miss Leclerc be charged as soon as possible and, consequently, that justice be done to her.

Oral Questions

[English]

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, since the last submission on this question, we have continued, through our high commission in India, to inquire about Miss Leclerc's welfare. The latest word I have, and I am reading directly from the communiqué, is that she is being detained under the Indian maintenance of internal security act because of crimes she is alleged to have committed both in India and abroad. The allegations regarding criminal acts are under investigation, and the Indian authorities have decided to keep Miss Leclerc under judicial remand until the investigation has been completed, at which time any charges which are justified will be laid.

Subsequent to the hon. member's last question, as recently as November 5, which was just a couple of weeks ago, our high commission has made further representations to Indian authorities requesting that they expedite matters, and I am told that it has also succeeded in providing not only consular services but also in getting some improvement in the conditions under which she is held. However, I am sure the hon. member will understand that this is the maximum we are able to do in this case.

INDIAN AFFAIRS

SUGGESTION SPORT FISHING IN ENGLISH AND WABIGOON RIVERS BE BANNED BECAUSE OF MERCURY POLLUTION

Mr. Cyril Symes (Sault Ste. Marie): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. In view of the minister's announcement yesterday that the federal government has abandoned the idea of a national park as a solution to the mercury pollution problem at the White Dog and Grassy Narrows Indian Reserves, does the minister support the unanimous request of the band councils that sport fishing in the English-Wabigoon river system be banned as a first step toward a solution of the problem, and will he urge the provincial government to accede to this request?

Hon. Warren Allmand (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, I will be meeting with Mr. Bernier about that and some other matters next Friday. With respect to that position, we have not yet come to a conclusion on it, but I will be urging a solution with Mr. Bernier when I meet him next week.

REQUEST THAT BAND COUNCILS BE PERMITTED TO DEAL DIRECTLY WITH DREE OFFICIALS

Mr. Cyril Symes (Sault Ste. Marie): In view of the frustration experienced by native leaders in dealing with officials in the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, will the minister establish mechanisms to allow the band councils to deal directly with DREE and other federal agencies in order to promote economic alternatives for the native people