

AIR TRANSPORT

STOL—REQUEST FOR STATEMENT OF COST

Mr. Ron Huntington (Capilano): Mr. Speaker, I have another short question for the Minister of Transport. I should like to refer to his statement in *Hansard* on October 23 in which he said that the President of Canadian Pacific Airlines exaggerated STOL costs by \$125 million. In view of Item 84 in the Auditor General's report of March 31, 1973, which points out that the readily identifiable STOL costs and commitments by the Crown at that date were \$118.5 million, has the minister now come to a different conclusion and if so, would he advise the House of his new figures?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): I think it will not be exaggerated, Mr. Speaker, if I ask to check the figures, not because I think the hon. member is not quoting the correct figures but I should like to see if there really is a difference between what I said and what he is saying.

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HEALTH

POSSIBILITY OF PROVINCES SHARING COST OF CHRONIC CARE HOSPITALS

Mr. P. B. Rynard (Simcoe North): Mr. Speaker, a question for the Minister of National Health and Welfare. In view of the fact that galloping health costs, mostly in the field of active treatment hospital care are running up in many cases in certain areas to well over \$100 a day, and in view of the bottleneck created by the shortage of chronic care beds, I should like to ask the minister if any agreement or any basis for agreement was arrived at with the health ministers when they met, regarding share costing on these programs?

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I will be glad to send the hon. member a copy of the communiqué issued by the last federal-provincial conference of ministers of health. At that time, I put forward a proposal aimed at expanding the present interpretation of the Hospital Insurance Act and Medicare Act so as to cover, if possible, other institutions that are not covered at present under current agreements in cases where it could be proven that such steps would produce greater cost effectiveness and hopefully reduce unit costs in the provision of health services.

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[Translation]

SPORTS

SUGGESTED LEGISLATION TO PREVENT THOSE UNDER 20 FROM ENTERING PROFESSIONAL HOCKEY

Mr. Roch La Salle (Joliette): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of National Health and Welfare.

Recently, the minister has urged the persons responsible for professional hockey not to sign contracts with young players under 20 years. As a follow up to this statement,

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would the minister tell us whether he intends to introduce legislation in this House, and if so, when?

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I do not believe that legislation would be necessary. Recently I met representatives from professional and amateur hockey and I have every reason to believe that these organizations will take care of this themselves, keeping in mind their own interests in this field.

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[English]

TAXATION

CHANGES IN POLICY RESULTING IN CANCELLATION OF PERFORMANCES BY FOREIGN ENTERTAINERS—GOVERNMENT ACTION

Mr. John Roberts (St. Paul's): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of National Revenue. In view of reports that theatrical producers in the United States and Great Britain are planning to cancel tours or their productions in Canada as a result of changes in taxation policy, can the minister tell the House whether changes have taken place or are contemplated in the application of tax procedures to foreign entertainers performing in Canada?

An hon. Member: Such as John Dean.

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of National Revenue): Mr. Speaker, I have looked into this. We used to run quite a flexible system of taxation administration relative to foreign entertainers and performing companies. At the request of the Canadian Theatre Managers' Association, we imposed a uniform system which has received a somewhat mixed reaction. I am reviewing the situation because I do not want the tax system to interfere with the performing arts, and I am seeking a meeting with the theatre managers' association to see what, if any, changes should be made.

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TRANSPORT

FREIGHT RATES—EFFECT OF COURT DECISION ON RULING OF TRANSPORT COMMISSION

Mr. Les Benjamin (Regina-Lake Centre): Mr. Speaker, a question for the Minister of Transport. In view of the fact that the courts have overturned a decision of the Canadian Transport Commission on the railways' application for freight rate increases, I should like to ask the minister if that ruling vacates the CTC December 31 decision, and if it has the effect of reinstating the freight rates structure as of December 31, 1974? In other words, no increase is in effect?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): I think the hon. member is asking me for what would be called a legal opinion on the powers of the CTC with regard to a judgment of the court. I am not a lawyer and I do not expect that I will be very soon—I think we have enough in the House anyhow—