

definitive policy statement from the minister, when will the minister make a statement to the House on regional air policy, particularly in light of the recent criticisms levelled at the government by the chairman of Air Canada?

**Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, it is difficult to answer that question as briefly as you would wish me to. I do not agree that there is not a definitive regional air policy at the present time. In so far as I am concerned, except for certain modifications which are of a relatively minor nature, the statement I made in August of 1969, I believe, still stands as the regional air policy.

**Mr. McGrath:** May I ask the minister if he can reconcile the statement he has just made with the statement reported on July 31, to have been made by the chairman of Air Canada to the effect that the present regional air policy was all wrong?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I am sure the hon. member recognizes that the question, asked in those terms, is really argument and is not in order.

**Mr. Thomas M. Bell (Saint John-Lancaster):** Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary for the minister. Does the minister feel it is desirable, having in mind the morale of the employees and the image of Air Canada, to have the chairman of the board, in an unprecedented way but certainly with courage, going round the country criticizing the government for lack of policy in this matter?

**Mr. Jamieson:** Mr. Speaker, it has been a traditional rule of this House and of the government, which has been reaffirmed on innumerable occasions, that the Minister of Transport ought not to interfere with the public utterances of the chairman of the board. The chairman of the board has said what he wished to say. I just do not believe, as I said a moment ago, that the regional air policy is all that vague or uncertain.

**Mr. Bell:** Mr. Speaker, would the minister have a discussion with the chairman of the board—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member for Vancouver-Kingsway.

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#### PUBLIC WORKS

##### VANCOUVER DOCK IMPROVEMENTS AND ENLARGEMENTS

**Mrs. Grace MacInnis (Vancouver-Kingsway):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Public Works. Can the minister say if needed improvements and enlargements to the Vancouver docks are still being carried out and, if not, why the work has been curtailed?

**Hon. Arthur Laing (Minister of Public Works):** Mr. Speaker, I am sorry I did not hear the question. Was it the Vancouver docks?

**Mrs. MacInnis:** Yes, the Vancouver docks. May I repeat the question? It was not ducks; we do not have that kind

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#### *Inquiries of the Ministry*

of weather there now. Can the minister say if needed improvements and enlargements to the Vancouver docks are still being carried out and, if not, why this work has been curtailed?

**Mr. Laing:** Mr. Speaker, I find difficulty in answering because I have no knowledge of a suspension of work or any requirement for further—is it the Vancouver docks?

**An hon. Member:** Not ducks.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I wonder whether there might not be a private consultation between the hon. member and the minister. We do not seem to be progressing very quickly on that question.

**Mrs. MacInnis:** Vancouver Harbour facilities. I amend my question.

**Mr. McGrath:** That is in British Columbia.

**Mr. Laing:** Mr. Speaker, any city that can raise its tonnage by seven and a half million tons in the last three or four years is not doing too badly.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mrs. MacInnis:** May I ask a supplementary?

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member for Vancouver-Kingsway.

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#### HARBOURS

##### VANCOUVER—REMOVAL OF DRIFTWOOD AND REFUSE FROM BURRARD INLET

**Mrs. Grace MacInnis (Vancouver-Kingsway):** I am not going to try that minister again, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Transport. In view of the fact that some 15,000 to 20,000 tons of driftwood, including a large amount of refuse, are floating around in Burrard Inlet, can the minister say what the National Harbours Board is doing to fulfil its obligation to keep the port of Vancouver clear of driftwood and refuse?

**Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport):** Yes, Mr. Speaker. When you get a six to seven million ton increase in freight you obviously get an increase in refuse. In answer to the hon. member, at the urging of a number of people I arranged to have the burning of this driftwood stopped because it was an annoyance to certain people in Vancouver. The problem is now that quite honestly we do not know what to do with it. We are up to our hips in driftwood. I am going to Vancouver on the weekend and this is one of the problems I hope to be able to resolve.

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#### AIR TRANSPORT

##### AIRLINE PILOTS' REQUEST FOR EARLY ACTION ON HIJACKING

**Mr. Warren Allmand (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce):** I have a question for the Acting Prime Minister. Has the minister