

Mr. MacEachen: Not at all. I do not intend that, consistent with the fact that Canada does not intend, through this form or method, to provide indirect recognition to any of these régimes.

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AIR TRANSPORT

PROPOSAL THAT AIRLINES PAY FULL SECURITY COSTS AT AIRPORTS—REQUEST FOR REPORT

Mr. J. H. Horner (Crowfoot): Mr. Speaker, in light of earlier statements by the Minister of Transport to the effect that there would be an announcement on June 1 indicating whether the airlines would be compelled to pay full security costs at MOT airports across Canada, I would ask the minister whether consultations with interested parties have come to a conclusion, and will a statement be forthcoming?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Transport): Yes, Mr. Speaker, a conclusion was arrived at, and is subject to some further consultation, that reduces the figure significantly from the earlier one proposed; I believe to 20 cents from 65 cents.

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VETERANS AFFAIRS

POSSIBILITY OF INCREASE IN ALLOWABLE EARNINGS OF RECIPIENTS OF WAR VETERANS ALLOWANCE

Mr. Jack Marshall (Humber-St. George's-St. Barbe): Mr. Speaker, in view of the difficulty being experienced by war veterans allowance recipients in earning a little more income to provide for the necessities of life, will the Minister of Veterans Affairs advise the House whether any consideration is being given to increasing the casual earnings allowable by a single or married recipient of war veterans allowance?

Hon. Daniel J. MacDonald (Minister of Veterans Affairs): Yes, Mr. Speaker. The hon. member will recall that this was looked at approximately a year and a half ago as well as three years ago. It is now one of the things to be looked at again, and we are doing this at present in my department.

● (1430)

Mr. Marshall: Mr. Speaker, I wonder whether the minister would give in a little more detail the amount of the increase in the casual earnings he is considering, in view of inflation in the last few years.

Mr. MacDonald (Cardigan): Mr. Speaker, the present amount is \$1,000 of allowable earnings for a single person and \$1,500 per married couple. I would prefer not to make figures known today until we have a little more study on them.

Oral Questions

[Translation]

REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION

DATE OF RENEWAL OF AGREEMENT FOR DEVELOPMENT OF LOWER ST. LAWRENCE AREA

Mr. Albert Béchard (Bonaventure-Îles-de-la-Madeleine): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion.

I would like to ask the minister if he could give the House a progress report on the discussions and negotiations with Quebec authorities about the renewal of the agreement on the development of the lower St. Lawrence, of Gaspé and of the Magdalen Islands and if we can expect this agreement will be reached as soon as possible?

Hon. Marcel Lessard (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Mr. Speaker, I would like to answer the question of the hon. member by telling him first that we are not negotiating a renewal of the agreement itself. In fact, it is a new agreement under the general development agreement we signed with the province of Quebec more than two years ago.

As a matter of fact, we are negotiating this agreement. The civil servants at both levels of government met on several occasions. My counterpart and myself will soon have another meeting to evaluate the work accomplished, take some decisions and give a certain direction to our civil servants.

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[English]

IMMIGRATION

REQUEST FOR DELAY IN DEPORTATION TO CHILE OF SERGIO PERES

Mr. John Rodriguez (Nickel Belt): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. In view of the fact that the government intends to proceed tomorrow with the deportation of a Chilean refugee identified as Sergio Peres who was active in Chile, both in the trade union movement and politically as a supporter of the murdered President Salvador Allende, and in view of the fact that such a respected international observer as George Cram, the overseas development project officer of the Anglican Church of Canada, has said that Peres "could certainly be detained, could well be tortured", and that he personally had interviewed many political prisoners in Chilean jails who had less political involvement than Mr. Peres, could the minister postpone any action in this matter until he can be thoroughly acquainted with the dangers faced by Mr. Peres should he be returned to Chile?

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, the case just came to my attention this morning. I have examined it to the extent that I note that the gentleman's application for refugee status was, of course reviewed by the interdepartmental committee and found not to be valid by that organization. It was then referred to the Immigration Appeal Board for second review and the refugee claim was not upheld. Having said that, and having just had the opportunity to alert myself to the situation, I will look at the case and as