

Oral Questions

minister entertains. In view of the circumstances, and of the fact that his colleague is opposed to it and has sent a letter confirming it to all his colleagues on the government side, can the minister first tell us today that he has indeed decided to levy a tax on natural gas and electricity exports?

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): It is perfectly obvious that the hon. member for Joliette would like me to reveal to the House, today, what next Tuesday's budget will bring. I would simply invite him to wait till Tuesday night next at which time the Minister of Finance will bring down the budget.

Mr. La Salle: Madam Speaker, on a supplementary. I should have liked the minister to tell the House, first of all, if he agrees on the contents of that letter. In any event, I would remind him of the following excerpt, which I quote:

In any case, and since Canadians assume responsibility for our own irresponsibility, let us subsidize the price of Canadian oil, at least for a time . . . but let us see to it that all Canadians pay for that folly and not only the producing areas.

Does the minister intend to reply in the affirmative to the invitation his colleague for Rosemont is extending to him?

Mr. Lalonde: There again my hon. colleague will have to wait till next Tuesday when the global energy policy of the government will be made public. I trust that, when he has acquainted himself with it, he will realize that it is an excellent policy for Canada as a whole.

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[English]

EMPLOYMENT

JOB-CREATION PROGRAM FOR NATIVE PEOPLE—INQUIRY RESPECTING INCREASED FUNDING

Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Employment and Immigration. In a submission made to a task force on native employment established by the minister's department, the National Indian Brotherhood complained that the job-creation programs being developed by his department were being planned without consultation with the national, provincial or local native organization. They also complained very bitterly about the fact that the funds available for native job-creation programs this year through the community development program and LEAP are substantially less than they were two years ago when the former Liberal government was in office. Has the minister given serious consideration to increasing the amount of money available for native job-creation programs this year?

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Minister of Employment and Immigration): As the hon. member knows, Madam Speaker, the whole area of job creation, employment and training is presently under review by a parliamentary committee headed by the hon. member for Notre-Dame-de-Grâce. There is also a

review taking place within our department to look at the internal financing of these areas. It certainly is my intention to combine those reports, when they are available, to develop some new initiatives in this area. We are consulting with native organizations. Last week I met with several groups of them out west. We will certainly bring them into any full consultation before any new programs are introduced.

Mr. Orlikow: Madam Speaker, the minister's reply to my question indicates there will be no more money this year while the matter is being considered. In the same submission, the National Indian Brotherhood urged the establishment of a joint committee from the minister's department, the Department of Indian Affairs and the Department of Regional Economic Expansion so that for natives there can be one economic development package instead of the completely separate programs which they now have from various departments. Is the minister consulting his colleagues about the possibility of such a joint approach?

Mr. Axworthy: Madam Speaker, there have been a number of discussions between the departments concerning how we can better co-ordinate and combine the different initiatives to assist native Canadians in employment and training programs, in fact in the whole area of economic development and assistance. As well, I assure the hon. member that in the development of plans we are looking at the initiatives we can take in western Canada where a large proportion of native people reside. We are also looking at ways in which we can develop special initiatives in terms of development funds for them in that area. I can tell the hon. member that the concerns he raises are ones that we also share and there are very extensive discussions taking place.

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[Translation]

AIR SAFETY

MIRABEL—SIMULATED CRASH OF DC-8 AIRCRAFT

Mr. Robert Gourd (Argenteuil): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Transport. Following the safety exercise held at Mirabel yesterday with the simulated crash of a DC-8 aircraft the toll of which would have been 34 dead, 25 seriously injured, 31 passengers with minor injuries and 25 other passengers in a state of shock, can the minister tell the House, first if he is satisfied with the results and, second if the persons in charge of staging this event will be asked to develop a safer and faster rescue system?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Transport): Madam Speaker, I guess the answer to the first question is no and the answer to the second is yes. However, this morning, around eleven o'clock, I asked my department for a detailed report on this situation because not knowing the criteria used for this exercise, I cannot pass judgment on what happened.