

AIR TRANSPORT

REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON REGIONAL AIR POLICY

Mr. Louis-Roland Comeau (South Western Nova): I have a question for the Minister of Transport. Bearing in mind the fact that we have been waiting quite some time now for an air policy, more particularly for a regional air policy affecting small airports, can the hon. gentleman tell us when we may expect a final statement in this regard?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): I have indicated to the House on previous occasions that I do not anticipate making what might be described as a major statement with regard to new regional air policy. We are in the process of refining and making certain changes in the existing policy in consultation with the regional carriers. Some changes are already in effect. Talks are continuing, and I would expect to see evidence of these changes in this program rather than in any one policy statement.

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AIRPORTS

TORONTO—NUMBER OF SITES UNDER CONSIDERATION

Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West): I wish to address a question to the Minister of Transport, bearing in mind that the minister expressed his thoughts concerning regional airport expansion in terms that his answer could not be decisive until such time as a decision had been reached with respect to the international airport in Ontario. Can the minister now advise us whether the sites he has been looking at have been reduced in number and can he give us at least some indication when he intends to express the new policy?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): No, Mr. Speaker, I regret I cannot. Talks are still going on. I seem to have the impression from discussing the matter with officials both of the federal government and of the Ontario government that there appears to be no legal way in which four major, large sites could be announced with the absolute assurance that there would indeed not be some land speculation. Therefore, it has been necessary to explore alternative means of accomplishing the same objective, that is, giving the parties concerned an opportunity to comment before a firm decision is arrived at.

Mr. Alexander: Mr. Speaker, is the minister now indicating to the House that he is still considering four sites? Perhaps the minister will tell the House whether the number of sites has been reduced in terms of practicality and feasibility.

Mr. Jamieson: Mr. Speaker, essentially what we are looking for is the most appropriate site to meet the aviation needs of southwestern Ontario which will at the same time meet the environmental needs and other objectives stated by various groups. As I have said repeatedly, there is no specific site. All we hoped to do

Inquiries of the Ministry

was to be able to say that there were a number of alternatives. Let me repeat that neither the government of the province of Ontario nor the federal government has been able to find a sure-fire method of avoiding land speculation. What we are hoping to do now is to find some other avenue which would not identify —

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

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POLLUTION

MERCURY CONTAMINATION OF DOGFISH OFF BRITISH COLUMBIA COAST

Mr. Randolph Harding (Kootenay West): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Fisheries and Forestry. Has the minister's department been able to locate the source of mercury pollution which has been affecting dogfish off the British Columbia coast?

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of Fisheries and Forestry): No, Mr. Speaker. This may be a natural background phenomenon.

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[Translation]

HOUSING

ASBESTOS, QUE.—LANDSLIDES—CONSTRUCTION OF LOW-COST HOUSES

Mr. Théogène Ricard (Saint-Hyacinthe): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister without Portfolio in charge of housing.

Would he tell the House if the government intends to accede to the request of the Asbestos authorities asking that the federal government purchase land and build low-rental housing on it, in order to deal with the crisis facing that locality following last week's landslide?

[English]

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister without Portfolio): Mr. Speaker, I shall have to take that question as notice. The details have not been brought to my attention, but I will try to reply to the hon. member later.

Mr. Speaker: Orders of the day.

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WELFARE

REQUEST FOR GRANT TO BLACK UNITED FRONT, SYDNEY, N.S., TO ESTABLISH DAY-CARE CENTRE

Mr. Robert Muir (Cape Breton-The Sydneys): I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The hon. member for Cape Breton-The Sydneys is rising on a point of order.

Mr. Muir (Cape Breton-The Sydneys): I shall try to outline to Your Honour my point of order. In view of the fact that a major portion of this afternoon's question period was devoted to questions pertaining to a \$2 mil-