

Oral Questions

[Translation]

BILINGUALISM

REPORT OF TASK FORCE ON FRENCH MINORITIES OUTSIDE QUEBEC—POSSIBLE ACCEPTANCE OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Mr. Pierre De Bané (Matane): Mr. Speaker, I want to put a question to the Secretary of State.

Since he had agreed to finance the activity of the committee on French-speaking minorities outside Quebec, and since this committee has already made its report to the minister, could he tell the House when he will be in a position to say whether he is going to accept the recommendations of this committee?

[English]

Hon. James Hugh Faulkner (Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, I do not receive the report until 12:15 today. I would like to read it before indicating whether I will accept the recommendations.

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ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

PEACE AND SECURITY LEGISLATION—NUMBER OF BILLS AND POSSIBILITY OF SEPARATE BILL FOR CAPITAL PUNISHMENT

Mr. Stan Darling (Parry Sound-Muskoka): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Solicitor General. The Solicitor General has publicly announced that the government's peace and security legislation will probably be introduced by the end of this month. Can the minister now state whether this legislation will be in the form of one, two or three bills? More importantly, has there been a decision on whether capital punishment legislation will be a separate bill or included with other amendments?

Hon. Warren Allmand (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, I believe we said that we would announce the measures, hopefully before the end of this month. With regard to the second question, while there has been no final decision, I must repeat what I said the other day. I said that it is likely the capital punishment measures will be in a bill separate from other matters relating to gun control and other Criminal Code amendments.

REQUEST FOR INVESTIGATION OF LEASE EXTENSION TO SKY SHOPS AT DORVAL—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Walter Baker (Grenville-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Solicitor General. As the minister knows, the hon. member for Central Nova sent him some documents on Wednesday with regard to the Giguère matter involving Sky Shops, which the Solicitor General kindly acknowledged. Has the minister had an opportunity to study those documents? What action does he intend to take? In particular, can he tell us today of the conclusions he has reached as a result of the study and investigation with regard to those documents?

Hon. Warren Allmand (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, after receiving the documents and looking at them, I referred them to the RCMP to get their opinion as to whether there should be further investigation of this. They

[Mr. Danson.]

are examining the documents and will report to me in due course.

Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton): In view of the importance of those documents with regard to the whole matter, will the minister undertake to the House that he will speak to the RCMP specifically to have that report as soon as possible? I ask this in view of the circumstances of this particular matter.

Mr. Allmand: Mr. Speaker, that is what I just said. The very day I received the documents from the hon. member, I referred them to the RCMP and asked for their opinion on them.

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AIRPORTS

ARCTIC BAY AND GRISE FIORD—REQUEST FOR DELAY OF ORDER TO CLOSE—POSSIBILITY OF CONTINGENCY PLAN

Mr. Jack Murta (Lisgar): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Transport. As in approximately one week's time the air force bases at Arctic Bay and Grise Fiord in the Northwest Territories will be closed by an order of the Ministry of Transport in Winnipeg, the order being basically that they will not allow planes to fly in at night, and as there will be total darkness in about one week at these points, which will have a devastating effect on these communities, can the minister assure the House that he will personally intervene to stop the closing of these airports, at least until a better plan can be worked out?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, the plan with regard to the airports at Grise Fiord and Arctic Bay was very carefully related to the safety requirements of the area. In the case of Grise Fiord, the landing at night is hazardous because of the hills in the vicinity of the airport. I think that the safety measures quite properly limit that form of landing. Provision is being made for a lighted airstrip on the ice as soon as that is available for landing. The report I received yesterday is that the ice is now 18 inches thick and, therefore, capable of handling planes. The gap, therefore, between the stopping of night flying into the airport and the commencement of night flying on the ice should in fact be very short. It would, of course, be ideal if no delay existed. However, I hope that hon. member will agree that the application of safety measures to the landing of craft, certainly commercial craft, is important and ought not to be lessened.

Mr. Murta: Mr. Speaker, we all agree that the application of safety measures is important. However, in talking with people of Resolute Bay, they advise that the safety of the airstrips has never been in question. There has never been any accident in that area. According to the people of Resolute Bay, there will not be any commencement of flying until some time in the first part of January. If this is true, does the minister have a contingency plan to bring in supplies to the more than 500 people in those areas which will be virtually cut off until the planes can land on the ice?