

Oral Questions

result of questions put to him on April 25, the minister indicated that the time honoured policy of separation of politics and politicians on Department of National Defence bases has been altered. Can the minister now confirm that he changed this time-honoured policy so that he could accommodate a fellow Liberal, the hon. member for York Centre, so that the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance could put his red, party-coloured trailer with his name emblazoned on the outside of the National Defence Air Base at Downsview?

● (1500)

Some hon. Members: Oh!

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CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS**DATE OF DECISION ON INQUIRY INTO SINKING OF "WILLIAM CARSON"—STEPS TO FIND REPLACEMENT**

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): My question is for the Minister of Transport. Has an official decision yet been taken with respect to the establishment of a judicial inquiry into the sinking of the CN ferry *William Carson* and, if so, when will such an inquiry be established?

Perhaps the minister could take this opportunity to tell us what steps the government has in mind to find a replacement as soon as possible for this ferry since many thousands of reservations have had to be cancelled because of the loss of the vessel.

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Transport): Final details in connection with the inquiry have not yet been arranged but I hope it will be possible for this to be done soon. We have been looking at the question of alternative vessels and their availability; we have also been examining ways in which to use the total fleet on the east coast as effectively as possible.

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TRANSPORT**HIGHWAY PROGRAM FOR MARITIME PROVINCES—POSSIBILITY OF CHANGE**

Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Dartmouth-Halifax East): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Transport. Now we have had some indication from the Council of Maritime Premiers and the Province of Newfoundland through their respective highway ministers relating to further meetings with the minister regarding the \$100 million highway program for the Atlantic region, would the hon. gentleman indicate whether he intends to carry to that meeting a much broader outlook with respect to the \$1 billion program which has formally been asked for by the four provinces or whether he intends to consider only some modification of the \$100 million program he recently announced?

[Mr. Dick.]

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Transport): The very first proposals from the Atlantic provinces which did involve a program of just under \$100 million was seen as being one which would extend over a period of years—perhaps at least ten years. What we have proceeded with at this point is a proposal for a cost-sharing arrangement for three years in relation to a cost-sharing arrangement involving, on our part, \$100 million, which is a very significant step toward the accomplishment of the ultimate objective. At the meetings this afternoon I shall obviously be discussing with the Atlantic transport ministers the question of the relationship between the first phase of the program and the long-term objectives.

Mr. Forrestall: So, we are to understand that the minister's position with respect to this introductory offer of \$100 million is essentially the position he will be putting before the four Atlantic highway ministers or transportation authorities.

Mr. Lang: It would really be inappropriate for me to deal in the House today with the full range of discussions to be held this afternoon. I am surprised the hon. member can so off-handedly refer to \$100 million as though it were an insignificant sum. It seems to me it is an important contribution toward highway improvement in the Atlantic region and I had hoped Atlantic members would recognize this and welcome it accordingly.

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ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE**REQUEST FOR STAY OF PROCEEDINGS AGAINST EDWARD ZIEMBA—PROPOSED LEGISLATION TO PROTECT SOURCE OF CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION**

Mr. John Gilbert (Broadview): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Justice. It is in two parts. In view of the fact that the people of Ontario are shocked and disgusted that a member of the Ontario Legislative Assembly, Edward Ziembra has been held in the Don Jail in Toronto for refusing to reveal to a court the name of the person who gave him confidential information, would the minister immediately contact the Attorney General of Ontario and ask him to stay the proceedings of the trial and refer the matter to the Ontario Court of Appeal? The second part of my question is this: would the minister bring in legislation to prevent a recurrence of this situation?

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Justice): I shall be having dinner this evening with the Attorney General of Ontario and shall inquire what he intends to do. As to the second part of the question, which is an important one, it is necessary, of course, to consider and balance the interests of the accused in a full and fair trial by having in court all possible information which may be helpful to the accused. On the other hand, of course, there is the interest of people concerned with maintaining confidential privileged communications. The Law Reform Commission has, in its study of the Evidence Code and in its consideration of trial procedures, been looking into the ques-