

Inquiries of the Ministry

[Later:]

POSSIBLE POSTHUMOUS CITATION FOR CAPTAIN OF
"PATRICK MORRIS"

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): A further supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. It is in connection with the report of the commission into the sinking of the *Patrick Morris*. Is the minister now prepared to consider recommending a posthumous citation for the captain of the *Patrick Morris* who, in the commission's opinion, was responsible for the saving of 47 survivors?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I thank the hon. member for his letter in this regard. The suggestion is one which certainly appeals to me. I have already initiated inquiries on whether there is some route through which I can make such a recommendation.

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AIR TRANSPORT

INVESTIGATION OF CRASH AT GORE BAY AIRPORT

Mr. Maurice Foster (Algoma): Mr. Speaker, my question is also for the Minister of Transport. In view of the recent airplane crash at Gore Bay airport in which four people were killed and two people injured, can the minister say whether an investigation is under way by his department and what progress has been made in determining the causes of this disaster?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I do not know specifically about this accident. I can only say it is normal and universal for an investigation to begin immediately after a crash. Therefore I assume that such is the case in this particular instance. As to the progress that has been made, I would have to investigate.

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ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

RELEASE OF YVES GEOFFROY FROM ST. VINCENT DE
PAUL PENITENTIARY—REQUEST FOR TABLING OF
LETTERS

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Solicitor General and arises out of the statement he made yesterday. In his statement he referred to several letters, one written by Geoffroy, one written by Miss Cornellier, and one written by the Reverend Nickels. In light of his undertaking that if there was any irregularity or illegality he would be prepared to call a judicial inquiry to investigate this matter, would he now be prepared to table these public documents in accordance with the rules?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean-Pierre Goyer (Solicitor General): First of all, Mr. Speaker, those letters are not of public interest. Among other things, there is the report of a social worker which deals with the private life of an individual, and I know the hon. member attaches great importance to per-

[Mr. Speaker.]

sonal privacy. Be that as it may, seeing he is curious to know whether or not those letters contain some scandal or other, I should be pleased to show them to him.

[English]

Mr. Woolliams: Mr. Speaker, may I ask a further supplementary.

Mr. Howard (Skeena): Most things in that department are scandalous.

Mr. Peters: They are too secretive most of the time.

Mr. Woolliams: Would the minister now be prepared, after his investigation into the matter, to advise us whether Geoffroy obtained a passport after his release from penitentiary and who was the guarantor of his application?

Mr. Diefenbaker: Surely the minister knows that.

[Translation]

Mr. Goyer: Mr. Speaker, I feel the question should be directed to the minister in charge, that is the Secretary of State for External Affairs.

[English]

Mr. Woolliams: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I do not want to take up the balance of the question period, but may I serve notice that at the end of the question period I will raise a point of order. According to the rules, documents of the type I have mentioned this morning are public documents. They were referred to by the minister and should be filed, and I should like to have the privilege of speaking to the matter.

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[Translation]

FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL RELATIONS

BRITISH COLUMBIA—SUGGESTION RESPECTING
EQUALIZATION PAYMENTS—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Réal Caouette (Témiscamingue): Mr. Speaker, I wish to ask the Prime Minister a question.

Recently, the Premier of British Columbia suggested replacing equalization payments to the provinces with direct payments to individuals. I should like to know why this suggestion was dismissed as bigotry by the Prime Minister.

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member was probably not in Ottawa at that time, or else he would have realized that the sequence of events was not such as he described it. I simply wonder how the hon. member would describe a person who claims that there are too many French Canadians in Ottawa. I do not know which word the hon. member would use to describe this attitude.

Mr. Caouette: Mr. Speaker, I wish to ask a supplementary.

I did not hear that statement, but I would ask the Prime Minister whether he is aware that some of our fellow Quebecers say that there are too many English Canadians in the Province of Quebec.