

*Oral Questions*

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, any group which needed financial assistance to prosecute its case for justice in Canada might make application to the government. As far as I know the question is hypothetical.

**Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton):** A final supplementary, Mr. Speaker. On occasion the Prime Minister has said that it is the intention of the government to watch this kind of action very closely and to intervene where necessary. Could he inform the House whether in this case counsel would have merely a watching brief or would play an active part in the proceedings? What position would the government intend to ask its counsel to take at any hearing?

**Mr. Trudeau:** Mr. Speaker, no action having been taken before the courts up to now, the question is purely hypothetical.

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**AIRPORTS****MOUNT HOPE—REASON FOR ALLOTMENT OF FUNDS TO STUDY ADVISABILITY OF EXPANSION AND FOR ACQUISITION OF LAND**

**Mr. Sean O'Sullivan (Hamilton-Wentworth):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport. I would point out to him the discrepancy in the estimates tabled for the coming fiscal year which indicate that his department will spend \$264,000 on an ad hoc advisory committee to study whether there should be expansion of the Mount Hope airport and also show a \$500,000 allowance for the acquisition of land for the expansion of Mount Hope airport during the coming year. May I ask the minister if this means that the \$264,000 ad hoc advisory committee is a fraud and an expensive one at that?

**Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport):** No, Mr. Speaker, because I understand that all this was printed before we had the Gibson report.

**An hon. Member:** It is a different airport.

**Mr. O'Sullivan:** A point of order, Mr. Speaker. To be fair to the minister I am referring to the Mount Hope airport in the city of Hamilton which has nothing to do with the Gibson report.

**Mr. Marchand (Langelier):** Oh, excuse me.

**Mr. O'Sullivan:** Perhaps the minister would like to amend his answer.

**Mr. Marchand (Langelier):** You know what is happening in Hamilton and it is the same thing.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**An hon. Member:** Do you know?

**Mr. Hees:** You tell us what is happening there.

**An hon. Member:** He doesn't know.

**An hon. Member:** Where is Hamilton?

[Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton).]

**Mr. Marchand (Langelier):** Of course, Mr. Speaker, when we decide at the request of the population to consult with all the organizations, then I wait until I have a report. That is all. I did not receive that report.

**Mr. MacFarlane:** A point of order, Mr. Speaker. The hon. member for Hamilton-Wentworth is well aware of the price of that study which is in the estimates on the same page—\$441,000. He received the report on the airport from me in person.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton):** Where is the fraud?

**Mr. O'Sullivan:** Mr. Speaker, I should like to return to the Minister of Transport, since it was to him that I posed the question. If I wanted an intervention from the minor league I would have indicated it.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. O'Sullivan:** Now that we have established clearly, I hope, with the Minister of Transport that we are discussing the Hamilton Civic airport located at Mount Hope, Ontario, could the minister tell the House why it is that the estimates show a multithousand dollar expansion study on whether there should be an expansion and then \$500,000 is allocated for expansion and land acquisition? It would seem that the decision has already been taken.

**Mr. Marchand (Langelier):** Mr. Speaker, it is very easy to put this kind of question. There is no doubt that, following the report, if nothing is done the money is not going to be spent.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

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**TRANSPORT****FERRY SERVICE TO GRAND MANAN ISLAND—REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION OF RATE INCREASE**

**Mr. R. Gordon L. Fairweather (Fundy-Royal):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Transport which is of equal importance to the people on the island of Grand Manan in the province of New Brunswick, which has nothing to do with millions or billions but has something to do with people who are isolated because of the sea. Given that the CTC has approved a 90 per cent fare increase to a federally subsidized ferry service will the minister recommend to the cabinet that such a drastic increase be deferred or that the federal subsidy be increased so that these isolated people will be saved from a very real hardship?

**Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, perhaps the hon. gentleman knows whether an appeal was launched to the cabinet on this. I do not know but I can check. If there is no appeal, this is a decision of the CTC.