

on a government aircraft is something I find not only justifiable but demanded in the circumstances.

I am puzzled at how the Hon. Member would suggest the Minister conduct himself assuming he is in a province and has not been able to get an appointment with another Premier for the next 24 hours. Would the Hon. Member suggest that he should come back to Ottawa at government expense, sit in his office, and then fly again to the same area at government expense? It would seem to me this would entail a greater expenditure of public funds than staying in the area and seeing some friends, or people he would hope become friends. I am just thinking aloud, Mr. Speaker. I am curious how the Hon. Member would advise me to refine the guidelines in a case like this. Should the Minister be ordered back to Ottawa at government expense, and then fly out in the same direction?

Mr. Hnatyshyn: A short supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Member for Halifax West has been seeking to be recognized for some time.

Some Hon. Members: No.

Mr. Speaker: A short supplementary.

REQUEST THAT PRIME MINISTER CONDUCT INVESTIGATION

Hon. Ray Hnatyshyn (Saskatoon West): Mr. Speaker, in about two months time the Prime Minister will understand that we have commercial service, with Air Canada and Eastern Provincial Airlines, because he will be using them himself. The next meeting of the Minister of Justice was today at three in the afternoon. There were two commercial flights available to the Minister, and he did not have to come back to Ottawa.

Will the Prime Minister investigate this matter, and if in fact the bulk of the Minister's time has been spent with respect to political activity on his behalf and that of the Liberal Party, will he ask for a reimbursement from the Minister, as a very minimum, for this blatant abuse of the use of government aircraft in the pursuit of his political activity?

● (1500)

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I am sure the Hon. Member is attempting to be helpful. However, if there were commercial flights, even I would know it. As a suggestion, I would inquire whether that would be a wise use of ministerial time. If the Hon. Member is correct, he would, I suppose, suggest that every Minister should fly by government aircraft when there is a commercial flight. As he would know from when he was a Minister himself and used government aircraft rather generously, the factor of time is involved.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. McDermid: Oh, no. The use was cut by 75 per cent. Check the records.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Oral Questions

Mr. Trudeau: With regard to the two questions, Mr. Speaker, I have already answered the first. I said I would look into the facts and invited the Hon. Member to send me whatever knowledge he has of them. The second question was a hypothetical one.

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PUBLIC WORKS

PROPOSED HALIFAX OFFICE COMPLEX

Mr. Howard Crosby (Halifax West): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Public Works. It is with regard to that mysterious office complex for the city of Halifax. As the Minister knows, it was announced in April of 1983 as a special recovery project. It was to be a \$50 million building. One year later it was reduced to a \$30 million building. When are the 1,000 Nova Scotians who were promised jobs on the construction of this office complex by his colleague, the Minister of International Trade, going to be put to work? Is there really going to be an office complex?

Hon. Roméo LeBlanc (Minister of Public Works): Mr. Speaker, we have had some difficulty getting final clearance to the title of the land. I must express amazement that the Hon. Member's political bickering extends to the point where he would deprive his own region of a very important government project.

Mr. Crosby: Mr. Speaker, if the Minister will allow me to take over his Department, I will have the office complex going in 30 days.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

SITE EXPROPRIATION

Mr. Howard Crosby (Halifax West): Mr. Speaker, if the office complex was planned to the point where the Minister of International Trade could stand up and show models of it, why did the federal Government not even own the land in question? Why is it now expropriating the land and having the expropriation challenged in the courts of law? Why did it not consider these matters before it announced the complex?

Hon. Roméo LeBlanc (Minister of Public Works): Mr. Speaker, I hope the Hon. Member is able to explain to the Halifax *Herald*, which is very regionalistic in its approach to these stories, why he is not helping us solve the problem. The reality is that I was personally disappointed that a public body which should have co-operated with us to try to find a proper site, did not help us.