

right hon. gentleman, as a national historic site as long as the right hon. gentleman is still alive? I ask this question in view of the fact that the home is in private hands and both the local council and the county council are very anxious to see this action taken.

Hon. Warren Allmand (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned before, the Historic Sites and Monuments Board is an independent commission which deals with these matters. It was set up in that way to make decisions in a non-partisan way. At the present time, its policy is not to recognize living politicians in that way; but I have asked them to review that policy, and I am awaiting that review.

Mr. Hnatyshyn: I hear they are buying Mr. Pepin's house.

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CUSTOMS

LACK OF PERSONNEL TO GIVE CLEARANCE TO CHARTER FLIGHTS AT SYDNEY—GOVERNMENT ACTION

Mr. Robert Muir (Cape Breton-The Sydneys): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National Revenue in charge of customs. I wish to thank the hon. lady for sending me a report on the subject matter of my question, although regrettably it is not encouraging. Several international charter flights have been prevented from landing at the Sydney airport, supposedly because of inadequate customs clearance facilities, according to certain bureaucrats in her department. Indeed one flight was forced, after landing at Sydney, to then fly to Halifax for customs clearance before returning to Sydney. Because this new regulation is creating great hardship and cost, not only to those who wish to visit Cape Breton island as tourists, but is hindering our tourist industry, would the minister be good enough to have this situation investigated further in order to have this problem corrected? I am informed that there are adequate facilities and manpower to take care of these charter flights?

[Translation]

Hon. Monique Bégin (Minister of National Revenue): Mr. Speaker, I can assure the hon. member that since I am responsible for a department providing services, I shall look further into the situation. I ask him to provide me personally with the details on the incident to which he referred. I should, however, like to take this opportunity to correct the impression he gave about the bureaucrats and existing facilities and so on. He knows full well that Parliament and the Canadian people have to keep some control over expenditures; we made arrangements for Sydney to accommodate certain chartered flights, but the airport is not classified as an international airport.

[English]

I wish him an international airport at Sydney one day, but we have not reached that point yet.

Oral Questions

Mr. Muir: Mr. Speaker, I thank the hon. lady for her answer; but in view of the fact that customs have been clearing international flights at this airport for many, many years, the magic number of 42 passengers comes up. Where was this decided? How was it decided that 42 passengers is the limit which can be cleared? In fact, a Concorde landed at that airport and they cleared some people there. Therefore, it would be in the interests of creating more jobs, which are badly needed on Cape Breton Island, if we could hire some more customs officials to clear some people there as they land.

Miss Bégin: Mr. Speaker, I will transmit this request to the Treasury Board.

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UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

SUGGESTED DENIAL OF BENEFITS TO THOSE WHO REFUSE TO TAKE JOBS

Mrs. Simma Holt (Vancouver-Kingsway): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. In view of the fact that a new extended CARE hospital has officially opened at the medical science centre at the University of British Columbia, but two-thirds of it must remain closed to a long waiting group of elderly sick while 200 nurses receive unemployment insurance benefits, and since the reasons given for their refusal to take work violates UIC regulations, will the minister consider moving to discontinue benefits of those who refuse to take the jobs available?

Hon. Bud Cullen (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I believe the situation is that some benefits have been disallowed as a result of some nurses refusing to take these particular jobs. It strikes me this is a situation, given a surplus of nurses, where we can use the immortal words of Horace Greely: "Go west, young woman", as well as some young men who have taken up this respected profession.

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LABOUR CONDITIONS

DATE OF ESTABLISHMENT OF CENTRE FOR OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH—PROVINCIAL PARTICIPATION

Mr. Cyril Symes (Sault Ste. Marie): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed the Minister of Labour. In view of the recent study which showed that foundry workers at Dominion Foundries and Steel Company have 4½ times the risk of lung cancer as workers in other parts of the plant, and in view of the health hazards in other industries as well and the lack of progress that is being made in cleaning up the work environment, I wonder if the minister can tell us when we can expect the establishment of the long promised Canadian centre for occupational safety and health to help co-ordinate and implement measures to protect workers' health and safety?