IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Hon. J. Robert Howie (York-Sunbury): Madam Speaker, I would like to ask the Prime Minister a supplementary question which might elicit, in abbreviated form, the information he was attempting to give us. Is it the intention of the government to treat its response to the recommendations in the report as a high priority?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Madam Speaker, yes. As I say, the ministers are already engaged in ways of following up on that report. The Minister of National Health and Welfare, for instance, has been encouraging the use of CAP funds to establish shelters for battered wives, and the minister has already established a family violence clearing house which can have as its mandate, resource information, research, where to turn for help, and such other matters.

In other areas like the recommendation on federal-provincial consultation, this has not begun yet, of course, but the Minister of Justice meets annually with his counterparts and it is his intention to raise this matter with them and to look at the report on this subject with the attorneys general of the provinces. There are many other areas which are under examination and we would be happy to discuss them with the hon. member at another time.

AIRPORTS

FUTURE OF DORVAL AND MIRABEL

Hon. Elmer M. MacKay (Central Nova): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the President of the Treasury Board. It is interesting to see the antagonism and the disagreement on such an issue as are apparent on the government side with respect to the future of Dorval and Mirabel airports. Since the President of the Treasury Board has a direct interest in the financial viability of Mirabel and also jurisdiction over many of the public servants connected with it, as well as being a Montreal member, will he attempt to resolve the problem and bring some rationale into the continuing operation of both these airports? What is his solution?

• (1450)

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Transport): Madam Speaker, as this is one of my responsibilities I want to assure the House that I received representations from the President of the Treasury Board as I have from many other hon. members, if not all hon. members, from the Montreal area.

QUERY RESPECTING POSSIBLE SOLUTION

Hon. Elmer M. MacKay (Central Nova): Madam Speaker, I will go right to the top. I am going to the Prime Minister. I know he has a logical solution as he has a solution for most of the problems which beset this country.

An hon. Member: Don't say you are going to the bottom!

Oral Questions

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. MacKay: The Prime Minister knows that Mirabel airport has been a financial, agricultural and commercial disaster, and that it is a problem which cries out for a quick and rational solution. He also is aware, for example, that a delegation of several concerned and angry municipal politicians from his area met again on Monday. Therefore I want to ask the Prime Minister whether he can finally bring an orderly and rational end to this continuing controversy which is doing no one any good, not the industry, nor the area, nor even his own caucus.

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Yes, Madam Speaker, I must say that the hon. member is fortunate in that his own Quebec caucus does not seem to be divided on this subject.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton): In unity there is strength.

Mr. Broadbent: Like your western caucus.

Mr. Trudeau: But certainly on this side there are very vigorous hon. members from different areas of the province who are presenting conflicting points of view, and it is the job of the caucus, under the leadership of the excellent minister, to find, as the hon. member hopes, a rational solution to the subject.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

BILINGUALISM

ENFORCEMENT AT TORONTO AIRPORT

Mr. Ron Stewart (Simcoe South): Madam Speaker, my question, too, will be directed to the Minister of Transport, if I can get his attention. Private concession operators at Toronto airport, but not at Mirabel, are being coerced to implement an involuntary, forced bilingual personnel policy.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Stewart: This directive will lead to the dismissal of present employees who are unilingual. It is an affront to the merit system, and reduces unilingual Canadians in an overwhelmingly English province to the status of second-class citizens. It will mean, also, that our shop operators will have increased overhead costs. In places—

Madam Speaker: Order. Does the hon. member really think that that is a question? This is question period.

Mr. Stewart: Madam Speaker, it is very important to Italian Torontonians. I would ask the minister, what is the nature of the legal action which will be taken against concession operators who fail to comply, and will this language policy be