

positive in response to this telegram and, if so, if I may use that phrase again, when does he plan to do it?

An hon. Member: After the cherry season.

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, we have received representations from some hon. members from British Columbia, from the Minister of Agriculture of British Columbia, from MLA's of British Columbia and from the marketing organization in British Columbia. We were in contact with them last week and were in contact with them again today. As I said on Friday, we are concerned about the plight they find themselves in on account of the influx of cherries from the United States and we will act, I hope, shortly.

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AIRPORTS

PICKERING—POWER OF INDEPENDENT BOARD OF INQUIRY TO COMMISSION STUDIES ON ALTERNATIVE FACILITIES

Mr. John Harney (Scarborough West): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport. It has to do with the terms of reference he tabled last week with regard to the board of examination into the Pickering Airport. Would the minister inform the House whether or not the board can be empowered under the terms he tabled to commission studies, particularly into alternative programs for the provision of air facilities in the Toronto area?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I am wondering if it is proper for me to interpret the terms of reference that have been tabled in the House. I should like to think about it before giving an answer.

Mr. Harney: Because of repeated rumours to the contrary, would the minister confirm before the House his statement that no construction, design or planning work will be carried out on the Pickering Airport site until such time as the board reports and a decision on the report is made by the government?

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): Mr. Speaker, I think the commitment we made before the committee of the House was that there would be no construction and no physical modification of the area affected.

PICKERING—INTENT OF VOTE L30 IN ESTIMATES

Mr. Norman Cafik (Ontario): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a supplementary question to the Minister of Transport on the same subject. Would the minister clarify an ambiguity respecting the estimates before the House in Vote L30 where there is a difference between the French version and the English version creating an absolutely diametrically opposed position? The English version of the vote—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member appreciates that this is one of the matters the House is supposed to consider later today. I doubt whether during the question period the hon. member can ask the minister to

Oral Questions

reconcile the French text of the estimate with the English text. I have some doubt whether a question in those terms is in order.

Mr. Cafik: Mr. Speaker, perhaps I could reword the question and ask the minister again if he would assure the House that the money set aside in the vote is money for design and not for construction in respect of the second airport in Toronto?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, it is for concept and design. There was a commitment before the committee that no construction is going to take place at Pickering.

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● (1450)

AGRICULTURE

POSITION OF MINISTER RESPECTING GRANT TO CONSUMERS ASSOCIATION OF CANADA

Mr. William C. Frank (Middlesex): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of Agriculture whether he is aware that the Consumers' Association of Canada has recently been awarded a further \$100,000 grant?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. A question asked in those terms is hardly in order. The hon. member is simply asking whether the minister is aware of certain circumstances. Put in those terms it is scarcely in order. The hon. member might like to rephrase it.

Mr. Frank: Perhaps I could ask the minister whether he approved the recent grant the Consumers' Association of Canada was awarded?

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): I am aware of the grant they received and I approve of it. It is the same as the grant parliament saw fit to give the opposition parties so they could do a good job. I hope the Consumers' Association can do a good job with the extra amount they have been given.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. We have reached the point in the question period when we should try to limit the number of supplementaries. There are only a few minutes left.

Mr. Frank: Since the minister is obviously in support of the principle of farm marketing boards, may I ask him how he reconciles this stand with the fact that one of his colleagues, the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs, has awarded this grant to the Consumers' Association which is interested in counteracting marketing boards?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. That question is hardly in order.

Mr. Whelan: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, the hon. member is insinuating that the association will find some-