

Oral Questions

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Mr. Speaker, I will be very pleased to do so in the appropriate forum, either by a statement on motions or by discussion in detail with hon. members during an appearance before the committee. I am delighted to have heard the hon. member's comment that indeed there is this relatively small percentage because it indicates we are not handing out funds indiscriminately but are making sure that they are darn good programs before anybody gets anything.

REQUEST FOR EXPLANATION OF DISAPPEARANCE OF
CERTAIN JOBS

Mr. Elmer M. MacKay (Central Nova): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the minister in charge of regional economic expansion. In light of the release of the monthly reports of DREE, dating back six months, which indicate that approximately 3,800 jobs have been lost for which the government previously claimed credit, is the minister going to table in the House a more detailed explanation of why these jobs suddenly disappeared?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Yes, Mr. Speaker, this is part of the reorganization I am hoping to undertake.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Jamieson: As the hon. member will know, Mr. Speaker, on a projection basis it is impossible to be precise as to the number of jobs, but I think we owe it to the House and to the public to explain what happened in cases such as this.

Mr. Baldwin: Particularly to the public.

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AIRPORTS

HIJACKING—SUGGESTED TRANSFER OF JURISDICTION
OVER POLICE OPERATIONS FROM CRIMINAL CODE TO
AERONAUTICS ACT—INTRODUCTION OF SPECIAL
FORCE

Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Hastings): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Transport but I would first like to congratulate him on assuming one of the two most important portfolios in the government.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Hees: As police operations at our international airports come under the jurisdiction of the police forces of the municipalities in which the airports operate, which makes it very difficult to deal adequately with potential hijackers and hijacked planes, is the government giving consideration to transferring jurisdiction over these police operations from the Criminal Code to the Aeronautics Act so these matters can be handled by the RCMP?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for—what riding?

Mr. Baldwin: Prince Edward-Hastings.

[Mr. Broadbent.]

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): As hon. members have heard, there is a reference in the Speech from the Throne to the Aeronautics Act. We intend to amend this act so that we will have more power, and you will see, of course—

Mr. Baldwin: More power to the minister.

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): Pardon me?

Mr. Baldwin: More power to the minister.

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): Yes. We know that we have to reinforce security at airports. This is being done in the United States and we intend to do it here, but it is very difficult to give details at this moment.

Mr. Hees: Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Minister of Justice. Is he doing everything possible to facilitate the transfer of this jurisdiction from the Criminal Code to the Aeronautics Act, and will he advise the House when he expects to have the special force being trained by the RCMP to operate at our airports ready?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, I think at least part of that question would be more properly directed to the Solicitor General. I can assure the hon. member for Prince Edward-Hastings that this matter is receiving high priority within the Department of Justice so far as the drafting of legislation is concerned.

Mr. Hees: Mr. Speaker, I have a final supplementary question for the Solicitor General. Will he advise the House when he expects that the special force which is being trained will be in operation at our airports?

Hon. Warren Allmand (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, the force is being recruited right now and some of the men will be trained very shortly. I do not have an exact date when they will be ready for work.

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[Translation]

MANPOWER

LOCAL INITIATIVES PROGRAM—CRITERIA FOR
APPROVAL OF PROJECTS

Mr. René Matte (Champlain): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration.

Has he checked whether officials of his department do apply the major standards in the approval of local initiatives projects, including the one concerning the regional unemployment rate?

[English]

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I did attempt to answer this question yesterday, but in a nutshell that certainly is the prime criteria which is being applied in the selection of projects for approval.