

by the government. The Minister of Justice discussed the matter with some of the interested parties in the Nordair charter before the announcement alluded to by the hon. member. I have not yet had a chance to discuss that conversation with the Minister of Justice. I should like to do so with both him and the Minister of Transport.

INQUIRY WHETHER EARLY DECISION WILL BE MADE TO SETTLE  
PROBLEM

**Mr. Dennis Dawson (Louis-Hébert):** Mr. Speaker, on a supplementary, now that there is only one group from Quebec, and that the main reason the Minister of Justice is involved in the matter is that, as minister representing Quebec concerning his counterpart, he takes care of Quebec problems, can the Prime Minister tell the House whether, now that a serious group has offered to purchase Nordair, he and the Minister of Transport—and not only the Minister of Justice who sits in the other place—will reach a decision so that the matter can be settled? They have been in government for six months now, so a decision could now be expected and now that the situation is easy to solve, and since the Prime Minister likes easy solutions, will he soon be in a position to make a statement to the House?

**Right Hon. Joe Clark (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, the question is now under consideration by the government. As the hon. member has just recognized, only three or four days have elapsed since the situation changed with regard to Quebecers interested in Nordair. With the change in circumstances, we shall now probably look into the matter in depth this week.

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[English]

CRIMINAL CODE

REVIEW OF GUN CONTROL LEGISLATION

**Mr. Gus Mitges (Grey-Simcoe):** Mr. Speaker, may I put a question to the President of the Privy Council? In view of the fact that a notice of motion has already been introduced by the Solicitor General which would give the Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs the authority to completely review and amend the whole aspect of gun control legislation, I should like to ask whether the President of the Privy Council would tell us on what date the committee will be given the necessary authority to delve into this legislation?

**Hon. Walter Baker (President of the Privy Council and Minister of National Revenue):** Mr. Speaker, it is unlikely, given the calendar of the House between now and the expected adjournment date for Christmas, that we could deal with the matter before then. It would be my intention to discuss the matter with the House leaders in terms of time. It is our intention to proceed with the reference as quickly as we can after we come back in the New Year.

Oral Questions

ENERGY

SENIOR CITIZENS' DISCOUNT ON HOME HEATING FUEL

**Hon. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the right hon. Prime Minister. It is based on the fact that some of the multinational oil companies, Imperial Oil and Shell in particular, have given notice to their agents in Canada to terminate the two cents per gallon discount on home heating fuel that has been available to senior citizens.

In view of the fact that this action must be offensive to the Prime Minister, coming as it does just after the government has talked to Imperial Oil about an increase in the price of gasoline, will the Prime Minister, either himself or through his ministers, make strong representations to the oil companies in this country to continue to make available to senior citizens a discount on heating fuel?

● (1450)

**Right Hon. Joe Clark (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I am surprised at the information the hon. member gives the House: it is the first I have heard of it. I am concerned about it, and I will be in touch with the companies that have been cited.

As the hon. member knows, it is the intention of the government to ensure as much as we can that actions which the government takes with regard to increases in fuel costs will not fall disproportionately upon the elderly of the country, but that, indeed, they will be helped by government programs. I would think as a matter of general principle that should be followed by the private sector as well.

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[Translation]

CULTURAL AFFAIRS

OPEN HOUSE CANADA PROGRAM—ALLEGED  
TRANSPORTATION MONOPOLY TO CP AIR

**Mr. Rémi Bujold (Bonaventure-Îles-de-la-Madeleine):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Secretary of State and deals with the Open House Canada program, an excellent program established by the former government which enables a great many young Canadians to visit their country and meet other young people of different backgrounds. Can the minister tell us whether it is true that his department has decided that CP Air instead of Air Canada shall provide transportation for these young people? If so, why; on what criteria has the minister based his decision, and does this decision not run counter to the government's policy of favouring Air Canada when public funds are involved?

**Hon. David MacDonald (Secretary of State and Minister of Communications):** Mr. Speaker, I am under the impression that the hon. member is misinformed.