

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

REQUEST FOR ASSURANCE NO DONATIONS RECEIVED FROM DREDGING COMPANIES FOR SWIMMING POOL AT PRIME MINISTER'S RESIDENCE

Mr. Craig Stewart (Marquette): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister which pertains to questions that are unanswered on the order paper. Can the Prime Minister or whoever is in charge of administering the funds for the construction of the swimming pool at his official residence assure the House that no donations were received from dredging companies or officials connected with dredging companies?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for High Park-Humber Valley.

* * *

● (1510)

AIRPORTS

PICKERING—REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION OF DECISION TO CONSTRUCT IN VIEW OF MAJORITY VOTE AGAINST PROJECT

Mr. Otto Jelinek (High Park-Humber Valley): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport and is with regard to the controversial Pickering airport. Because the minister made a commitment to revise the proposed airport plans if it could be shown that the people of Toronto are opposed to it, and as a recent survey conducted by a reliable market research firm shows that the majority of the people of that city do oppose a second airport, can the minister assure the House that he will now consider the wishes of the people of Toronto and keep his own word, by taking immediate steps to stop any further planning or construction of the project and bring the whole issue back to cabinet and perhaps the House for revision, as promised.

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I have not seen the details of the inquiry referred to by the hon. member. He speaks of metro Toronto; what is metro Toronto, exactly? He speaks of 40 per cent of the people of Toronto being opposed; does that mean that 60 per cent support the airport? I have no details. Surely, he does not expect me to answer a simple question like this, which hides much more than it shows.

Mr. Jelinek: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. The poll to which I referred has been made public and shows that not 40 per cent but 54.4 per cent of the people were opposed to the proposed Pickering airport. When I refer to metro Toronto, I am referring to the city of Toronto, as the minister well knows. The minister made a commitment to this House, which is on record.

Some hon. Members: Order.

Mr. Jelinek: May I ask my supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In order to avoid the embarrassment of the accusation that he is deliberately trying to mislead the House, could the minister tell us what other information would

Oral Questions

satisfy him and induce him to revise this white elephant project.

[Translation]

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): Mr. Speaker, I have absolutely no idea of the value of the statistics given. I know we have made our own investigations. I came back from Toronto this morning, where I met the Minister of Transport. There is nobody in all Toronto who complained about the construction of the Pickering airport, and I met several persons.

* * *

[English]

TRANSPORT

DREDGING CONTRACT FOR GOLDEN EAGLE REFINERY IN QUEBEC—REQUEST FOR DETAILS

Mr. J. P. Nowlan (Annapolis Valley): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Transport and concerns certain St. Lawrence Seaway dredging contracts. Is the minister, or are his officials, aware of the dredging contract entered into in the Quebec city area, allegedly for the Golden Eagle refinery? It was entered into even though informed and knowledgeable river and port interests were consulted and advised against such dredging contract. That contract proceeded on the basis of a \$10 million bid. When tenders came in, the price was \$20 million and already \$36 million has been spent on it. Does the minister know anything about that particular contract?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I am not aware of the details of that contract, but will inquire. I do not think I was Minister of Transport at that time.

Mr. Benjamin: Are you now?

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): I will look into the matter and see if there is anything to report.

Mr. Nowlan: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. As this took place in 1971 or 1972, I concede that the minister was not in charge, although his departmental officials were informed. While looking into the matter—I know he cannot report to the House until after Easter—could he determine what prominent Liberals were in favour of the contract, as I understand that one of them is a colleague of his who is now a member of the cabinet but who was not in the cabinet when he made strong representations for this contract to be proceeded with.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.