

Inquiries of the Ministry

the bill. He would then say we were continuing our so-called illegality.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Is the hon. member for Moose Jaw rising on a point of order?

Mr. Skoberg: Yes, Mr. Speaker. I think it should be clear that I did not request the withdrawal of the bill. I suggested that the bill should not be proceeded with until the meeting had taken place.

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[Translation]

AIR CANADA**MEASURES TO AVOID STRIKE**

Mr. André Fortin (Lotbinière): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Transport.

In view of the possibility of a strike by 2,000 Air Canada employees which may seriously inconvenience a large number of travellers over the next few days, could the minister tell the House whether he or his colleague the Minister of Labour, who has been asked to resort to conciliation to bring this unfortunate situation to an end, have considered special action? If so, what is such action?

[English]

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): I understand that at the moment at least the proposed strike has had no effect on the operations of the air line. The air line is hopeful and, indeed, is satisfied that it will not cause any major slowdown. I am awaiting a further report today. As always, I am sure the services of the Minister of Labour will be available for conciliation if necessary.

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AIR TRANSPORT**FACILITIES TO BE USED FOR AIR SERVICES TRAINING SCHOOL—FUTURE OF CLINTON ARMED FORCES BASE**

Mr. R. E. McKinley (Huron): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport. I understand there is another survey going on in his department with a view to ascertaining what facilities might be needed for a new combined air services training school. Is it the intention to use existing facilities for this school or are new facilities to be constructed? I have in mind the facilities at the Canadian Forces Base at Clinton.

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): Yes, Mr. Speaker, and thanks to the representations the hon. member has made on innumerable occasions in this regard I have had the most exhaustive study made of the Clinton base along with the Minister of National Defence to ascertain whether it would be feasible for us to use a portion of it as an air traffic control school or some related activity. I regret to advise the hon. member and the House that we have concluded it is not a suitable site and we shall be looking elsewhere.

Mr. McKinley: May I ask the Minister of National Defence whether he intends to convene a meeting among other levels of government as requested by Huron County to discuss the future of this facility?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of National Defence): I would be quite prepared to hold additional meetings on this subject as they may be arranged with responsible elected bodies.

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AGRICULTURE**FIRST EVIDENCE OF NEWCASTLE DISEASE IN POULTRY**

Mr. Mac T. McCutcheon (Lambton-Kent): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Agriculture. Dr. Hawkins of the Health of Animals Branch has been reported in the press as stating that Newcastle disease in poultry was first diagnosed by that department in Lambton County in June, 1971. However, a written answer to Question No. 1700, tabled in the House recently, reported that the first instance of this disease was diagnosed in Kent County a month later in July. In view of the conflicting statements and the seriousness of the disease, will the minister undertake an investigation to provide the correct answer and advise the House which one to believe?

• (12 noon)

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I certainly acknowledge the seriousness of this matter. I should like to advise the hon. member that I will have a more detailed reply, but I would also like to advise him that there is a difference between recognition of symptoms and actually isolating the live virus. I think that is where the difference lies here.

Mr. McCutcheon: In view of the rapid spread of this airborne virus, if the minister finds out that Dr. Hawkins' statement is the correct one will he cause a further investigation to be made to ascertain the reason for the suppression or delay of the report?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member will recognize that the question is either hypothetical or a recommendation to the minister.

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ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE**INCREASE IN MURDERS—SUGGESTED INQUIRY INTO CAUSES**

Mr. Warren Allmand (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce): Mr. Speaker, in view of the absence of the Minister of Justice, I should like to put this question to the Solicitor General. In light of the alarmingly high rate of murders this year, is the government considering any special program to deal with this serious problem?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean-Pierre Goyer (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, we are continually and relentlessly fighting organized crime in Canada. There are two points I would like to