

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I can indicate that when the flights should have started this morning, some ramp employees of Air Canada were not present. The matter is being investigated. I do not have a report or explanation at this time.

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ENERGY

POSSIBILITY REFINERY AT COME-BY-CHANCE WILL CLOSE—GOVERNMENT MEASURES TO ENSURE CONTINUED OPERATION

Mr. Elmer M. MacKay (Central Nova): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. Has the minister made inquiries into the future status of the refinery at Come-By-Chance in Newfoundland and can he tell us whether, given the 400 jobs and the 100,000 barrels a day in output which are involved here, the government has any plans, through Petro-Can or whatever, to ensure the continued operation of this facility?

Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, I am aware of the difficulties at the Come-By-Chance refinery at the present time. I am also aware that Petro-Canada has made it their business to find out what is the problem. I cannot say more than that at the present time.

Mr. MacKay: Can the minister tell us what the effect will be on the supply situation in eastern Canada should this facility close?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

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AGRICULTURE

MINISTER'S VIEW ON EFFECT OF PRODUCTION CONTROL PROGRAMS

Mr. Ken Hurlburt (Lethbridge): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Agriculture. In light of the fact Secretary Butz has made it quite clear that any country which advocates and promotes a controlled production concept will ultimately destroy its ability to compete on world markets as well as destroy man's ability, desire and initiative to produce, will the minister inform the House whether he agrees with Secretary Butz?

● (1440)

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): I saw the same program, Mr. Speaker. I asked Secretary Butz last year whether he was proposing control measures. He did say on that program that he had intervened several times in marketing arrangements in his own country and that he would continue to do so as long as he was Secretary of Agriculture.

Mr. Hurlburt: Would the hon. gentleman assure us that he will acquire a transcript of the production for a showing in the Railway Committee Room and invite all Members of Parliament to review this outstanding film.

Oral Questions

PENITENTIARIES

MAXIMUM SECURITY PSYCHIATRIC INSTITUTIONS—STATUS OF INSTITUTION PROPOSED FOR DARTMOUTH

Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Dartmouth-Halifax East): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Solicitor General but in his absence I will direct it to the Acting Solicitor General or the Minister of Public Works. It has to do with the program for the construction of maximum security psychiatric institutions in various regions of Canada. With regard to the program apparently selected for Dartmouth in Nova Scotia, I should like to ask whether its status is such that consultations have now taken place with the Province of Nova Scotia and city officials in Dartmouth with respect to the location of the institution.

Hon. C. M. Drury (Minister of Public Works): I will take notice of that question, Mr. Speaker.

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NATIONAL PARKS

STUDY OF FEE SCHEDULE—REQUEST FOR REPORT AND CONSULTATION WITH INTERESTED GROUPS

Mr. Howard Johnston (Okanagan-Kootenay): Mr. Speaker, my question is intended for the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. In his absence, I will direct it to the parliamentary secretary. When can the House expect to receive the results of the study promised by the minister into the effects of last year's alterations in the fee structure relating to the national parks?

Mrs. Iona Campagnolo (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): I do not have a direct answer for the hon. member but I am sure the minister will be able to give him a precise date very shortly.

Mr. Johnston: Can the hon. lady tell us whether the minister is now prepared to discuss the results of the study and any proposed change in the fee structure with operators of businesses in the parks, interested groups and individuals who have made representations to him, before any new fee schedule is announced?

Mrs. Campagnolo: The minister has made it clear that he is willing to consult with such people and he has already done so in some cases.

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FINANCE

POSSIBILITY OF REDUCTION IN PERSONAL INCOME TAXES

Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore): Mr. Speaker, I wish to address a question to the Minister of Finance. In view of the government's stated intent to hold down increases in its expenditure to approximately 14 per cent in 1976 as opposed to 23 per cent in 1975 and 28 per cent the year before, is it the intention to decrease personal income taxes this year as part of the fight against inflation while at the same time stimulating the private sector of the economy?