

Oral Questions

tunities which should take place? While he is doing that does he also intend to be in touch with General Motors, which plans a \$3 billion investment over the next few years.

Mr. Gillespie: I have been in touch with both companies on the question of investment, and I have made it clear to the automobile industry generally that I expect them to invest in Canada on the same relative percentage basis of the total North American investment as they enjoy in the Canadian market.

Mr. Saltzman: When will the minister be in a position to report on his representations to both Ford and General Motors as to their plans?

Mr. Gillespie: I feel that I am reporting back to the House on a regular basis because this is an on-going situation with the automobile industry at the present time, and I look forward to doing so again in the coming weeks.

* * *

[Translation]

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS**SUGGESTED INCREASE IN PENSIONS OF WIDOWS OF RETIRED WORKERS**

Mr. Eudore Allard (Rimouski): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Transport.

This being Women's International Year and Mothers' Day, being only a few weeks away, would the minister be in a position to tell the House whether he has taken or is about to take necessary steps to upgrade the pension of the Canadian National pensioners' widows?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): —to upgrade the pensioners of women . . . of widows—

Some hon. Members: —of widows!

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): —of widows! Ha! Yes. I hope the hon. member will make written representations, particularly with respect of the widows he is himself interested in.

* * *

[English]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**VIET NAM—POSSIBLE USE OF ARMED FORCES TO ENSURE SAFE EVACUATION OF CANADIANS**

Mr. Donald W. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): Mr. Speaker, my question is very serious, and it is addressed to the Acting Secretary of State for External Affairs. In light of the fact that the United States seems prepared to use its armed forces to ensure the safe evacuation of its nationals from Viet Nam, is the Canadian government also planning to use Canadian armed forces, air and naval, to undertake the safe evacuation of Canadians from the area, and is that why there are naval units in the western Pacific?

[Mr. Saltzman.]

Hon. James Richardson (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, Canadian forces do have two Hercules aircraft stationed in Hong Kong. They have travelled to Saigon and brought out some Canadian personnel. They are available to evacuate all Canadian personnel as the need arises. The other forces which are in the Pacific are there for training purposes and not in connection with the evacuation.

VIET NAM, CAMBODIA AND LAOS—NUMBER OF CANADIANS TO BE EVACUATED AND PLANS FOR EVACUATION

Mr. Donald W. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): I will address my supplementary question to the Acting Secretary of State for External Affairs and ask him how many Canadians are still left to be evacuated, and are there at present firm plans and alternatives for their evacuation? In the same general context, what about the safety of Canadians in Cambodia and Laos?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, we are receiving regular reports on Canadians in Indo-China, some of whom, of course, do not wish to leave. Those who do wish to leave have the alternative of leaving immediately on commercial aircraft, and as my colleague has said, if in the end it is necessary to use Hercules aircraft to evacuate those who still remain before a possible collapse, those plans would be put into effect.

* * *

AIR TRANSPORT**POSITION OF IATA ON AIRLINE ACQUIRING INTEREST IN TRAVEL AGENCY**

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Transport. It is not a question relating to specific dealings between Air Canada and a particular travel agency. I would like to ask him whether IATA, the international organization which regulates air travel in general, approves of an airline like Air Canada acquiring an interest in a travel agency.

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I think that is a very pertinent question. I presume that the inquiry officer will have to look into that. If a deal took place, I do not know. I am not the inquiry officer, but there is no doubt that if this deal took place, there surely is a problem in the regulations of IATA, of which Air Canada is a member.

* * *

PUBLIC WORKS**DREDGING—REQUEST FOR OUTLINE OF SAFEGUARDS BEING CONSIDERED FOR NEW CONTRACTS**

Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West): Mr. Speaker, I would like to follow up with a supplementary question to questions asked by the hon. member for St. John's East to the Minister of Public Works, who indicated that he is