

to the study of the proposed new runway for the Vancouver airport, bearing in mind that he had no difficulty whatsoever in interfering with all the usual procedures when cancelling the Kitimat proposal? Will he assure the House that he will now step in, in like manner, and cancel this new runway, which has already been studied to death and in respect of which all the evidence is that it is not necessary and is not needed?

Hon. Len Marchand (Minister of State (Environment)): Mr. Speaker, as the hon. member knows, an environmental assessment panel has been appointed to work on this matter and is reviewing the situation. It will be presenting a final report to me some time this fall. By that time I will be in a position to make a recommendation to my colleague, the Minister of Transport, on what should be done.

Mr. Fraser: Mr. Speaker, would the Secretary of State tell the House the facts that he or other members of the cabinet suddenly acquired last week, which made it possible to cancel the Kitimat proposal, which were not available to him months ago before millions of dollars in taxpayers' money had been spent on a study which was interrupted by the government?

Mr. Marchand: Mr. Speaker, certainly the government had a number of facts on hand relating—

An hon. Member: Which facts?

Mr. Marchand: —to the whole question of petroleum and energy supplies for Canada. My colleague, the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, has been doing a great job in addressing this question.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

An hon. Member: Can we have the facts?

Mr. Marchand: I will send the hon. member a copy of the information, if he would like that. We waited until we received the interim report from Dr. Thompson. That helped a great deal in making up our minds finally in relation to the west coast oil ports.

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● (1502)

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

PROPOSAL PRESIDENT AMIN BE BANNED FROM ENTERING CANADA FOR COMMONWEALTH GAMES

Mr. Douglas Roche (Edmonton-Strathcona): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Last week Uganda announced that it would accept the invitation to attend the Commonwealth Games in Edmonton and would be sending a contingent of 75 people, whom we welcome. On May 26, 1977, in answer to a question I posed in the House, the minister said he would investigate my suggestion that President Idi Amin be banned from entering Canada during the Commonwealth Games.

Oral Questions

In light of the latest Amnesty International Report for 1977, which specifies that President Amin is responsible for numerous killings during a reign of terror in that country, will the minister now make it perfectly clear that President Amin will be banned from entering Canada during the Commonwealth Games?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, there is another talent President Amin has, which the hon. member should be aware of, and that is maximizing the proposing of hypothetical questions as to whether he is going to visit some place or whether he is not. I can see we are now off on a whole new round of speculation: Is he going to come, or is he not? In those circumstances I do not think I ought to comment, other than what I said last May, on what President Amin may do or what attitude we would take toward him. I have said repeatedly that it serves no useful purpose. If President Amin announces categorically that he is going to come, we will deal with it at that time. I do not see any point in changing the observations I made last May.

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INDUSTRY

CLOSING OF MINE IN STEWART, B.C.—EFFECT ON EMPLOYMENT

Mr. Stuart Leggatt (New Westminster): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce: it concerns the town of Stewart, British Columbia. I realize the hon. Minister of State for Fitness and Amateur Sport has that community in her riding. That community will be experiencing the shutdown of the Granduc mine on June 30, 1978. That will almost eliminate it as a viable community in the area. What proposals has the government made with regard to bringing back that community and giving the residents some assurance that there will be work, there will be employment, and there will not be just bankruptcy and unemployment following June 30?

Hon. Jack H. Horner (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, my department is watching the copper situation very closely. The United States is announcing today, or announced yesterday, an inquiry on copper coming into that country. That will affect the copper producing countries which are in competition with Canada and came on the market excessively in the last six months, such as Zaire, Chile, and so on. Because of our long-term sales to the United States, we are negotiating with them so that we will be able to continue exporting to that country, which has been our pattern. With that in mind, the hon. Minister of State for Fitness and Amateur Sport has kept me informed of the situation in respect of the town of Stewart.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Horner: Because of the hon. Minister's ability to lobby to me, I am sure my department will do the best it can to assist