

Oral Questions

Mr. MacKay: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. May I indicate to the minister that I have heard a number of reports saying that negotiations have broken off. That prompted my question. I ask him to assure the House that he will do everything he can to expedite orderly negotiations, in order to avoid the possible consequences this summer of disruption of our air services?

Mr. Munro (Hamilton East): Mr. Speaker, I will look into the situation which the hon. member raised. He suggested negotiations broke off this morning. Of course, we will do everything possible to avoid a breakdown and we shall make available to both parties the full services of our department.

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TRANSPORT**LOSS OF FISHING VESSELS ON WEST COAST—REQUEST FOR REPORT**

Mr. Donald W. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): Mr. Speaker, may I direct my question to the Minister of Transport and express the hope that the inquiry which he promised the hon. member for York West will be quicker coming forward than the inquiry for which I asked three months ago. I asked the minister on several occasions since then if he would make available to the House, to me or to the fishermen the report of the inquiry, promised more than three months ago, to do with the disastrous occurrences on the west coast involving loss of life and loss of fishing boats.

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I was supposed to do that today but was prevented from doing it at the last moment. I hope that when I return to the House I can file a report.

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ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS**EFFECT OF DIKING OF FRASER RIVER ON SPAWNING GROUND OF SALMON—GOVERNMENT ACTION**

Mr. Joe Clark (Rocky Mountain): Mr. Speaker, may I direct my question to the Minister of the Environment? Since dike construction by the minister's department and the government of British Columbia under the Fraser River Flood Control Program is going to endanger critical nursing grounds for spring and coho salmon at Robert's Bank, will the minister advise us whether an environmental impact assessment report was prepared before that construction began and, if not, will there be such a report. Will the diking be stopped until that impact assessment has been completed?

Hon. Jeanne Sauvé (Minister of the Environment): Mr. Speaker, the diking of the Fraser River was the object of a number of studies. I understand that these are not finished. As for delaying or even stopping construction of these dikes, some problems have come to the surface and I am looking into them.

[Mr. Munro (Hamilton East).]

Mr. Clark (Rocky Mountain): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. May we have a commitment that the minister will look into this matter directly and report to the House immediately, by which I mean tomorrow or next week, as to precisely what activity is to be undertaken, so that there will not be further destruction of the salmon fishery on the west coast of British Columbia.

Mrs. Sauvé: Mr. Speaker, I have been looking at this question for a number of days. As soon as I have the complete information on this matter, I will be glad to report.

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INDUSTRY**SAUNDERS AIRCRAFT—INQUIRY AS TO GOVERNMENT AID**

Mr. Dean Whiteway (Selkirk): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. Yesterday the Prime Minister met with the premier of Manitoba and discussed the Saunders Aircraft Corporation. Can the Prime Minister indicate how the federal government intends to participate in the activities of the Saunders Aircraft Corporation and will he assure the House that the same formula will be applied to the Saunders Aircraft Corporation as was applied to another eastern aircraft manufacturer, de Havilland?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the discussions between the premier of Manitoba and myself had to do with the industrial development of the province. It is not customary for me to indicate the details of that correspondence or exchange. The premier and I have been exchanging correspondence and, no doubt, will exchange further correspondence. If he wishes to make it public that, of course, is his privilege, provided both sides agree.

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TRANSPORT**ESQUIMALT-NANAIMO RAILROAD—POSSIBILITY OF ACQUISITION BY GOVERNMENT**

Mr. Hugh A. Anderson (Comox-Alberni): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport. As the government has generally provided service when the private sector has failed to provide it, and as CPR announced recently that they would close their rail line between Franksville and Courtney on Vancouver Island, would the minister consider the acquisition of the Esquimalt-Nanaimo railroad in order to provide passenger and freight service for upper Vancouver Island?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, that is a tough question to answer. I know that the CPR applied to the CTC for permission to abandon this line. Although I do not have the answer and do not know the decision of the CTC, I do know that the CPR guaranteed a bus service, and even a truck service to provide the service that they are not giving themselves.