

interest in any event at least to those who might be tempted to vote no? But the right hon. Prime Minister should not be surprised if his new federalism is found lacking, and undeserving of trust after the experience of the past 12 years.

Mr. Trudeau: Madam Speaker, the government has made two proposals for a new constitution to the House. It did so in June of 1978 when we tabled the white paper entitled "A Time for Action". We also tabled a bill, namely Bill C-60. A report was also prepared at the request of the government, that of the royal commission of inquiry chaired by Messrs. Pepin and Robarts. A royal commission of inquiry was also set up by the federal government, that of Mr. Pearson, namely the Laurendeau-Dunton commission. So the hon. member should not forget that this government and former governments of Liberal allegiance have made several proposals on a renewed federalism. What he seems to forget, Madam Speaker, is that when Premier Lévesque came he always refused to discuss the proposals saying they were "too little". That was his way of ensuring that the status quo be maintained because, as we know, what he wants is independence. The hon. member should also know that.

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[English]

AIRPORTS

CAMPAIGN PROMISE TO IMPROVE FACILITIES AT MOUNT HOPE

Mr. Geoff Scott (Hamilton-Wentworth): *Madame le Présidente*, on Monday the Minister of Transport said that the government would honour the Conservative administration's \$45 million commitment to expand the Hamilton civic airport at Mount Hope, and then he added "if it makes sense". The hon. member for Hamilton East said the following on January 25:

—\$45 million would provide facilities that are primitive at best; the Liberals stand by their commitment to spend \$100 million to upgrade the airport.

In view of that campaign statement by his colleague, I ask the Minister of Transport if those gentlemen have their act together yet. If \$45 million may not make sense, can we take from that that the government intends to honour its \$100 million campaign promise?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Transport): Madam Speaker, my information is that the previous Liberal government never made a promise of giving \$100 million to this project.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

An hon. Member: Your colleague did.

Mr. Pepin: No, sir. My information is that the immediate previous government—theirs—simply passed a resolution in cabinet expressing the wish, the desire, the intention or the principle of allowing \$45 million for this project.

Oral Questions

I suggest to you, Madam Speaker, very simply that the assessment of what is needed to be done at that airport is not completed yet. This is what is taking place now on the ground side as well as on the air side. When this is done, we will assess what needs to be done and direct the necessary funds to do it.

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AIR CANADA

SERVICE OUT OF HAMILTON—EFFECT ON NORDAIR

Mr. Bill Kempling (Burlington): Madam Speaker, I have a supplementary question which is directed to the Minister of Transport. Air Canada opened an office in downtown Hamilton a few months ago, and a senior official at that opening said Air Canada would be offering a service out of Hamilton once the new airport facilities were arranged at Mount Hope.

I want to ask the minister what effect this will have on Nordair. What effect will it have on the purchase offers which have been tendered to the government for the Nordair shares held by Air Canada on behalf of the government?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Transport): No effect at all, Madam Speaker. This is a different question entirely. My department is trying to make sure that Nordair will stay there and will continue to operate from that airport. There are ideas being expressed there are possibilities that Air Canada might also operate from that airport, on other routes, obviously. This is what is being assessed now. It is a bit of a vicious circle, as usual—one wants to know what the traffic will be in order to find out what kind of terminal one needs.

Mr. Nielsen: Like Pickering.

Mr. Pepin: So we have to break through this vicious circle, and we are working on that at the moment.

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FINANCE

RESULTS OF MEETING OF INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND—ASSISTANCE FOR LESS DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

Mr. Bob Ogle (Saskatoon East): Madam Speaker, I had hoped to address my question to the Minister of Finance, but I see that he has left the chamber. Therefore, I will address it to the Secretary of State for External Affairs.

● (1450)

The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance is well known for his activities and interest in the north-south dialogue, the discussions that go on between the rich and the poor countries today which are even more important because the staggering differences become more clearly visible: for example, 800 million people are now living in destitution and 30 million children die each year from starvation.