

Oral Questions

[Translation]

Mrs. Morin: I rise on a question of privilege, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The hon. member for Louis-Hébert is rising on a question of privilege.

Mrs. Morin: Mr. Speaker, I challenge the comments of the hon. member for Yukon. I think it was my duty to ask that question because the Quebec ex-Minister of Social Affairs was also representing the Louis-Hébert constituency. Besides, it had already been suggested that he might act as adviser to the Department of National Health and Welfare and I simply wanted to clear up the matter. The minister did not draft my question.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Does the hon. member for Témiscamingue wish to ask a supplementary question?

Mr. Réal Caouette (Témiscamingue): Mr. Speaker, I wish to ask a supplementary question of the Minister of National Health and Welfare.

Would the minister have in his department a position of assistant adviser for Mr. Yvon Dupuis, for instance?

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[English]

AIR TRANSPORT**BILATERAL AGREEMENT ON ROUTES TO UNITED STATES—GOVERNMENT POSITION ON REQUESTS OF PRINCE ALBERT, SASKATOON AND REGINA**

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, the amount of cheering on the other side indicates that none of them listened to the Prime Minister last night or they would not be cheering. My question is directed to the Minister of Transport. It has to do with the announcement he made this morning. What consideration was given to the request of the cities of Prince Albert, Saskatoon and Regina, supported by the government of Saskatchewan, that the province of Saskatchewan should have a route into the United States?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, the statement I made this morning was aimed at defining a new international policy, excluding the United States. We are negotiating with the United States for a bilateral agreement. This is where this problem should be solved, if it is possible to solve it.

Mr. Diefenbaker: I wish to ask the minister this question. In view of the situation in Saskatchewan where there are no routes into the north except by private plane, in consequence of which employees of mining corporations, prospectors and the like have to go into northern Saskatchewan by way of Alberta or Manitoba, could the minister secure the support of the Minister of Justice so that Saskatchewan will not be discriminated against and get justice?

[Mr. Nielsen.]

● (1210)

REGIONAL CARRIER POLICY—REQUEST FOR CONSULTATION WITH PROVINCES

Mr. Allan Lawrence (Northumberland-Durham): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary for the Minister of Transport. In view of the disappointing statement he made this morning to the House with respect to the 1966 regional air carrier policy, which the minister says he intends to continue and which is obviously inadequate, will the hon. gentleman reconsider the whole regional air carrier policy, taking into account the active interest, participation and opinions of the provincial governments?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): This is what we are doing in concert with the provincial governments in the west, following the Western Economic Opportunities Conference. We are in constant consultation concerning air services in the northern part of the provinces and all regional services, too. This is something we are already doing.

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WELFARE**METHOD OF FULFILLING PRIME MINISTER'S PROMISE OF FUEL COST ASSISTANCE TO NEEDY**

Mr. Heath Macquarrie (Hillsborough): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister also prompted by his television performance last night which pre-empted a full-length show called "The Man Who Ran Away".

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Macquarrie: It refers to his assurance that needy Canadians would have enough money to pay for higher priced winter fuels. Can the right hon. gentleman advise us how this aid is to be given, whether by way of new legislation, greater federal generosity under the Canada Assistance Plan, or how?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): I indicated in my statement that this was the direction agreed on between the Minister of National Health and Welfare and myself, and he will be able to announce in due course the way in which this will be done.

FUEL COST ASSISTANCE TO NEEDY—REQUEST THAT PROVINCES BE INFORMED OF FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S WILLINGNESS TO PAY

Mr. Ed Nelson (Burnaby-Seymour): My question is supplementary, Mr. Speaker. It is addressed to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. It arises from the Prime Minister's statement: "I have asked the Minister of National Health and Welfare to make sure that payments to people in need are sufficient to meet winter fuel costs." Will the minister undertake to inform his provincial counterparts of his concern about this matter and tell them that the federal government is willing to pay extra fuel costs resulting from the current round of increases in petroleum prices?