

## Oral Questions

**Hon. Michel Dupuy (Minister of Canadian Heritage):** Mr. Speaker, all these people have to do is give me some kind of a notice and I will be able to start the proceedings. I am waiting for them to do that. They stated that they intended to take such action; that is what I heard yesterday; when they approach the Minister of Canadian Heritage, he will take the appropriate action.

**Mr. Roger Pomerleau (Anjou—Rivière-des-Prairies):** Mr. Speaker, does the minister agree that, contrary to what he alluded to yesterday and again today in the House, in addition to the appeal mechanism available to citizens, the federal cabinet may also, and the legislation is quite clear in this respect, act on its own to do justice to the francophone and Acadian communities, and demand that the CRTC reverse its decision? The legislation is quite clear on that; we can provide him with a copy of it.

**Hon. Michel Dupuy (Minister of Canadian Heritage):** Mr. Speaker, when I am told that I will be contacted, I have the decency to wait to be contacted. I do not behave like members opposite who pose as messengers for the francophone communities, in the hope of scoring political points. I am waiting to hear officially from them, and then I will make the appropriate decisions.

\* \* \*

[English]

## GRAIN TRANSPORTATION

**Mr. Wayne Easter (Malpeque):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the minister of agriculture.

Back in mid-May, when the minister of agriculture met in Winnipeg with industry representatives about solving the grain transportation problems for this year and for future years, the minister established a number of committees that were to report back in two weeks.

Have those committees reported back? If so, has the minister decided what action should be taken on the part of the government?

**Hon. Ralph E. Goodale (Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food):** Mr. Speaker, besides responding directly to the hon. member's question I would like to congratulate him and thank him and all members of the agriculture and transport subcommittees of the House that investigated certain problems we experienced this year in our grain transportation system.

I can advise the House that I will be announcing later today a package of changes in this area. I believe the hon. member and other members of the transport and agriculture subcommittees will see that very many of their recommendations are included in the announcement I am about to make.

\* \* \*

## PEARSON INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

**Mr. Dick Harris (Prince George—Bulkley Valley):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport.

On June 6 my colleague from Simcoe Centre asked the government if all documents related to the Pearson airport deal would be released to the public. He was promised that the Minister of Transport would respond to that question as soon as possible.

I would like to ask if the hon. minister would respond to that question today.

**Hon. Douglas Young (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, we are trying to conclude the cancellation of the contract at Pearson with the negotiator.

• (1445)

The matter is before the House in terms of the legislation, so I would not want to contravene the rules of the House. The member will know that a lot of this involves companies and commercial undertakings that are not just directly related to the Pearson project. I want to say to the hon. member that when this matter is concluded, all material that is appropriate, that can be released and what can be legally provided to the public will be provided.

**Mr. Dick Harris (Prince George—Bulkley Valley):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the hon. minister for his answer.

I would like to ask him when he is making his decision as to the release of these documents if he would include as interested parties the Canadian taxpayers who are actually going to be footing the bill for this.

Will he include in his decision of releasing the documents that they are very concerned about the way this deal is put together and the amounts of moneys that are going to be paid out if any? They demand to have an answer and an assurance that this type of deal will never again happen.

**Hon. Douglas Young (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, as the member recognized implicitly in his question, Canadians know that this deal was questionable and certainly not in either the public interest or in the best interest of Canadian taxpayers.

I have no doubt that whatever decision is arrived at with respect to compensation for out of pocket expenses precluding any compensation for lobbyist fees or foregone profits, the Auditor General of Canada as well as Canadian taxpayers will want to scrutinize in a very careful way every penny if in fact any money is paid in compensation. That is why the minister who is given fairly wide discretionary powers under the legislation that is presently before the House will be very careful in making sure he recognizes his fiduciary responsibility to the Canadian taxpayers.

\* \* \*

[Translation]

## SOCIAL HOUSING

**Mrs. Monique Guay (Laurentides):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Deputy Prime Minister. Today, the Minister of Public Works is attending a federal-provincial conference of housing ministers in Bathurst, New Brunswick. This conference is particularly important because the federal government totally