

They were well received, and I think it was a worth-while exchange of views which might lead to an improvement in mutual understanding of what the proposal will lead to in the long term.

REPORTED USE OF FALSIFIED INFORMATION BY PROJECT SUPPORTERS

Mr. Terry Sargeant (Selkirk-Interlake): Madam Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Minister. Last week we learned that the United States Department of the Interior has used bogus information to justify claims that Garrison will not adversely affect wet lands and wildlife habitat in northern Dakota. Can the Minister tell us whether this item was discussed on the weekend, and can he tell us what the Canadian Government is doing to check whether any such falsified information has been used by Garrison supporters to justify portions of the project which may have possible adverse effects on the Manitoba ecology?

Hon. Chas. L. Caccia (Minister of the Environment): Madam Speaker, in reply to the Hon. Member's question I should like to add that yesterday we obtained agreement to a meeting to be held in Washington between Canadian and American officials in November. They will work out a number of irritants related to Phase One. If that takes place in a satisfactory manner, I hope that some of the concerns of the Hon. Member will be met.

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AIR CANADA

RCMP REPORT ON SELECTION OF MONTREAL HEADQUARTERS

Mr. Pat Nowlan (Annapolis Valley-Hants): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport. In view of his commitment of last week, I wonder if he has had an opportunity to review the RCMP report on the Air Canada matter. If so, what action does he intend to take, separate and apart from anything that has been referred to the Attorney General of Quebec, in regard to criminal implications?

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Minister of Transport): Madam Speaker, surely the Hon. Member should know that when a matter is still being considered by an officer of the law, it is a matter on which I cannot comment. I have not had a chance to look at the report. As the Attorney General still has the report on the legal side under advisement, it is a matter on which I cannot comment in the House.

REQUEST THAT TRANSPORT COMMITTEE BE CONVENED

Mr. Pat Nowlan (Annapolis Valley-Hants): Madam Speaker, my supplementary question is addressed to the Chairman of the Transport Committee. There has been some discussion, and a letter, separate and apart from any alleged criminal activities or implications with regard to the RCMP report. Could the Chairman take steps to convene the Transport

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Committee forthwith—which has not been sitting for two weeks and which is seized of the Air Canada matter—so that other areas of interest which affect the administration of Air Canada and its operation could be properly examined by the Committee?

Mr. Maurice A. Dionne (Northumberland-Miramichi): Madam Speaker, as the Hon. Member well knows, the Committee has not been sitting for two weeks, but it sat continuously for three months. There is a very important piece of legislation before the House in which members of the Committee are interested, and many Members feel they should be in the House for that debate.

Furthermore, it is my understanding that the President of Air Canada is out of the country for this week and next. It seems to me it would be unfair to call that Committee when he is not available.

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MARINE TRANSPORT

SINKING OF LAKE ERIE FISHING TUG

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Vegreville): Madam Speaker, I should like to direct my question to the Minister of Transport. He is undoubtedly aware of the recent sinking of the *Jorge B*, a fishing tug, in Lake Erie, with the resultant tragic loss of three lives. Since that accident concerns have been raised about the seaworthiness of the vessels used in that operation, the inadequacy of the safety equipment, and the lack of proper inspections and proper training for captains. In light of this tragic loss of life, may I ask the Minister if he has looked into the matter? What steps is he taking to improve the situation there in order to prevent further loss of life and further tragedies of this nature?

● (1440)

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Minister of Transport): Madam Speaker, as in all cases of this kind the Coast Guard makes an immediate examination, and an investigation will take place. I think many of the judgments made by the Hon. Member will have to wait for a full accounting from that kind of an examination. If some of those in fact prove to be the case, we would take the appropriate action to correct them. But I would ask the Hon. Member to await the full examination and assessment that we can make and I will share that information with him.

ABSENCE OF LIFEBOATS

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Vegreville): Madam Speaker, I appreciate the Minister's answer. However, the *Windsor Star* surveyed the fleets in the Wheatley and Kingsville area and found that of 37 boats moored at Wheatley on one afternoon, six did not have lifeboats on deck, and of 20 boats which were moored in Kingsville, eight had no lifeboats. In view of that situation would the Minister not consider it urgent enough to