

Oral Questions

[English]

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. We have gone beyond the end of the question period. Perhaps the Chair might recognize the hon. member for Prince George-Peace River on a quick question and then close the question period with a question from the Leader of the Opposition.

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IMMIGRATION

ALLEGED PLAN TO ATTRACT IMMIGRANTS TO THE LUMBER INDUSTRY

Mr. F. Oberle (Prince George-Peace River): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. In light of the fact that there seems to be no let-up in the high unemployment statistics, can the minister tell the House if he has any plans at this time to accelerate his recruitment program to attract a larger number of new citizens to Canada, in particular workmen who would be employed in the lumber industry?

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): No, Mr. Speaker. This report, which I believe was in a west coast newspaper, is erroneous. It arises from the fact that in the ordinary course we are training foreign service officers, that is to say, immigration officers, for work abroad. There are 25 such foreign service officers just returned or on rotation leave in Canada and they are to be oriented toward Canadian industry so that they may do their jobs better in their assignments abroad. However, there is no special program to recruit immigrants with any particular skill at this time. Actually, we are adopting a rather low key approach abroad to immigration at this time. This hiring and training happens every year. We think it is rather good practice to have our people reoriented toward Canada after they have been away for some time or before they go abroad.

Mr. Alexander: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The Leader of the Opposition.

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AIRPORTS

VANCOUVER INTERNATIONAL—REQUEST THAT MINISTER ATTEND AT RICHMOND, B.C., TO ANSWER QUESTIONS ON EXPROPRIATION

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Transport. Is he prepared to go to Richmond, British Columbia, and, if so, when, to answer questions of concerned citizens who are disturbed about the airport expropriation proceedings? I ask this question particularly of the minister because officials have indicated there are certain questions they cannot answer as they are only civil servants. If the minister is prepared to go we would be prepared, of course, to allow him pairing privileges.

[Mr. Marchand (Langelier).]

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, last night there was a public meeting attended by more than 100 people, in the Sea Island area more precisely, to allow public servants to answer questions. Some of these were of a very technical nature, such as the explanation of the CNR system, that is Composite Noise Reading and another called NEF, or Noise Exposure Factor which is also quite a sophisticated system. All the computations must be redone for each request in order to explain one system in relation to the other.

This is the question which officials of the department could not answer immediately. This is strictly a technical question. As to the other answers, these people were able to get them.

[English]

Mr. Speaker: Orders of the day.

An hon. Member: Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I have allowed the Leader of the Opposition to ask his question. I think we should call orders of the day.

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BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

WEEKLY STATEMENT

Mr. Baldwin: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, may I ask the government House leader about the business of the House for this week and next week, bearing in mind the announcement of the Minister of Finance that, finally, he will be able to make the budget speech on Monday night which would take us right up to next Monday, the nineteenth.

Mr. MacEachen: Mr. Speaker, we will continue today with the business of supply. If we conclude that today we would continue with the amendments to the Criminal Code followed, probably, by the bills on housing, on foreign investment and on crop insurance. If the business of supply is not completed today, I may feel obliged to vary the order in which I may call the other items.

Mr. Baldwin: Mr. Speaker, as a further question, could I ask the minister when he will take steps to activate the various standing committees? I particularly bring to his attention the need to activate forthwith the new joint committee on statutory instruments in light of the very large task that the committee will have in dealing with the large number of orders in council, regulations and decrees that are being issued.

Mr. Stanfield: Secretly.

Mr. MacEachen: Mr. Speaker, I will take steps to activate the joint committee, although I am surprised that my hon. friend would consider having such a joint committee in view of his recent estrangement from the other place.