

*Oral Questions***AIRPORTS****IMPROVEMENT OF FACILITIES AT MOUNT HOPE—
MAINTENANCE OF NORDAIR SERVICE BY QUEBECAIR**

Mr. Geoff Scott (Hamilton-Wentworth): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport. I want to make one final approach—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Scott (Hamilton-Wentworth):—on the future plans for Mount Hope airport before Parliament takes off for the summer recess.

An hon. Member: That is in Hamilton.

Mr. Scott (Hamilton-Wentworth): Will the minister please tell us when he will be in a position to announce a decision on this matter which is so vital to the entire Hamilton-Niagara-Brantford region? Before he answers "soon", can he say how soon is soon?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Transport): Madam Speaker, I am sure that my hon. friend, when he goes home, has noticed some improvement taking place at the Hamilton airport. There is new paving on the runways and I presume he is more comfortable now when he lands.

With respect to the over-all program for Hamilton, this is being studied now in the general context of expenditures on airports. I hope to have news for him when he comes back in the fall.

Mr. Scott (Hamilton-Wentworth): Madam Speaker, I am delighted the minister can confirm that some of the grass is being paved at the Mount Hope airport. However, I would really like to know whether the minister can confirm the sale of Hamilton civic airport's prime carrier, Nordair, to the owners of Quebecair, and can he assure the people of my area that Nordair's service into and out of Hamilton will be maintained under its new ownership?

Mr. Pepin: Madam Speaker, I am quite sure that no purchaser of the company would relinquish the privilege and advantage of serving Hamilton. But I will be making very sure of that before a sale is made.

VICTORIA—PROVISION OF RADAR EQUIPMENT

Mr. Donald W. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): Madam Speaker, my question is also to the Minister of Transport. Is the minister aware that within the last 13 months, at an airport without radar, there have been 19 near misses, many of which could have been avoided had radar been in place?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Transport): Madam Speaker, we have this afternoon and on other days a clear indication of the needs that Canadian airports have with respect to equipment, runways, terminals, etc. We are trying to satisfy most of these wishes while living within our means.

With respect to radar at Victoria, as I indicated in a letter that I have written to my hon. friend, it is in the program. We do not think Victoria is endangered by the situation that exists now. The hon. member can disagree with that, however. But it is within our program to include these facilities at Victoria.

Mr. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): Madam Speaker, it is quite obvious that the minister is not aware that on two successive days on the landing flight path, small aircraft ran into parachutists that were not announced either to the control tower or to the pilot of the aircraft.

An hon. Member: Liberal candidates.

An hon. Member: It was Mackasey.

Mr. Hees: They were those twinning fellows.

Mr. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): On the second occasion the pilot had to dodge as many as 30 parachutists. They were American parachutists on the flight path, but within the control area of the control tower. Does this, at last, convince the minister that there is a new priority that ought to be assigned to the establishment of radar at Victoria international airport?

Mr. Pepin: No, Madam Speaker. I am aware of two near misses, one that took place at Victoria and one at Vancouver in recent days. I checked on that this morning, and inquiries are being made by the Department of Transport, which is the normal procedure in these matters.

* * *

THE CONSTITUTION**INPUT OF NATIVE GROUPS IN DISCUSSIONS**

Hon. Jake Epp (Provencher): Madam Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Prime Minister. Given the numerous representations which the government has received from various native groups, the FFHQ and others, for meaningful input into the current constitutional process, has the government now decided on an appropriate means to ensure that the special concerns of groups such as these will be heard in the process?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Madam Speaker, the hon. member will remember that following our meeting on June 9 with the premiers, I reported to the House that I had suggested some enlarged type of forum, such as the one suggested by my friend, the Leader of the NDP.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

An hon. Member: Is he still your friend?

Mr. Trudeau: Yes, that was a wasted word; he is not even listening.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Trudeau: I reported that the position of the premiers at that time was that we should continue within the restricted forum that we had created for the purpose of the meeting on June 9. I believe that is the position, an honourable one, which was supported by the Leader of the Opposition.

* * *

NORTHERN AFFAIRS

REPRESENTATION BY YUKON AND NORTHWEST TERRITORIES COUNCILS AT MEETINGS OF FIRST MINISTERS

Hon. Jake Epp (Provencher): Madam Speaker, at the Liberal party convention in Winnipeg a resolution was passed by the delegates saying "the delegates require that the Yukon Council and the Northwest Territories Council be represented at meetings of first ministers so that the people of the north will be directly represented by their locally elected members."

In view of the position of the government, namely, that the elected officials of these two territories are not to be represented by actually sitting down with the first ministers, is the Prime Minister now rejecting the resolution passed by his own delegates in Winnipeg?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): No, Madam Speaker. The hon. member will realize that I was referring only to the meeting of June 9 encompassing the meetings taking place this summer. I indicated at the time, and I repeat, that we have in the past and will in the future continue to include in our delegations representatives from the territories and representatives from other groups.

Under the present framework of federal-provincial meetings, the premiers, I think quite properly, indicated that it would not be quite right for the federal government to bring a lot of other representatives with a voice and a vote of their own into meetings which until now have been comprised of the 11 first ministers.

* * *

FISHERIES

FLOW OF WATERS IN BRITISH COLUMBIA—EFFECT ON SALMON STOCKS

Mr. Jim Fulton (Skeena): Madam Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans. I am sure the minister knows he ordered, in late June, that the Aluminum Company of Canada increase the flow in the Nechako River to 1,000 cubic feet per second. The Aluminum Company of Canada has now publicly stated its intention to only increase the flow to 850 cubic feet per second. I have taken the time to contact the officials in British Columbia, and the flow today is only 800 cubic feet per second.

I wonder whether the president of Alcan is the minister of fisheries, or whether the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans who is seated here in the House today is. Perhaps he could advise the House today—everyone here—whether or not it is still his

Oral Questions

opinion today that the flow in the Nechako River, for the protection of salmon stock, is 1,000 cubic feet per second.

Hon. Roméo LeBlanc (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans): Madam Speaker, the figure of 1,000 c.f.s. is one which was given many years ago. There is a debate on whether or not a figure somewhat below 1,000 would be adequate.

An hon. Member: There was no salmon in those days.

Mr. LeBlanc: We have been measuring and monitoring that very closely. We have made it clear to the Aluminum Company of Canada that if in our judgment, because we have to protect the fish that are moving in and out of that area, the flow was inadequate, then obviously we would go to court if necessary to make sure that the resource is protected.

● (1500)

I have not had a report on this issue since last Friday. I hope to have one when I get back to my office this afternoon. It is not our intention to allow an operation of this type to wipe out the very important run of the fishery.

Mr. Fulton: Madam Speaker, I assume the minister is telling us it is his opinion that 1,000 cubic feet per second is required, because less than a month ago he ordered that and the Aluminum Company of Canada has come out and said that it does not intend to comply with what the minister said.

We have seen the frontier attitude of the minister in western Canada with reference to Riley Creek and other incidents. Will the minister confirm whether the opinion he held two weeks ago, of 1,000 cubic feet per second, is still held by him today, and whether he intends to use section 20(10) of the Fisheries Act to protect the fishery in British Columbia?

Mr. LeBlanc: The hon. member seems to be totally tied to the figure of 1,000, which was a ballpark figure.

Mr. Fulton: It was your figure.

Mr. LeBlanc: If the hon. member will be patient, I will try to explain. The fact is that 1,000 was considered to be desirable. There are, however, conditions of temperature, that is, how warm the season is or is not, what natural flow comes from areas besides the dam where the overspill occurs. This is being monitored.

I have not had a request from my department to take further action at this time. Following the hon. member's question this afternoon, I will obviously be checking with them. If, in the opinion of the scientists in my department—not my opinion—it is necessary to request more water, then we will do that.