

success in the grain trade. The farmers are deeply concerned about these remarks made by the leader of the third party.

Do the views expressed by the leader of the third party reflect in any way the views of the federal government?

**Hon. Ralph E. Goodale (Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, the leader of the Reform Party is as much of a diplomatic disappointment in Washington as he is a political disappointment in Canada.

I want to assure the hon. member that the leader of the Reform Party in no way speaks for the Government of Canada. The Canadian Wheat Board is and always has been a fair international trading agency, as multiple studies by the United States have demonstrated. Decisions about Canadian grain marketing systems and policies will be made in Canada by Canadians, not in any foreign capital.

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• (1450)

#### CANADIAN NATIONAL

**Mr. Bill Blaikie (Winnipeg Transcona, NDP):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance.

The Minister of Finance was in Winnipeg recently speaking to the Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce. I understand he was asked a question about the status of CN pensions.

Would he say here in the House today what he is reported to have said at that meeting, that under any circumstances of privatization of CN that may happen in the future, pensions of CN pensioners will be guaranteed by the Government of Canada and CN pensioners have nothing to fear from privatization? Will he put that on the record here today?

**Hon. Douglas Young (Minister of Transport, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, in dealing with the commercialisation of CN obviously we are going to take into account everything important to Canadians and the employees of CN. I want to reassure my hon. friend that as the process unfolds the interests of everyone involved will be protected to the extent that we can.

**Mr. Bill Blaikie (Winnipeg Transcona, NDP):** Mr. Speaker, why is the Minister of Finance not willing to state today on the record what he is reported to have said at that meeting in Winnipeg, that the pensions of CN pensioners would be guaranteed by the Government of Canada?

Get up and say it so people do not have to worry about their pensions. Say what you said in Winnipeg. Never mind him, I asked—

**The Speaker:** All questions should be put through the Chair.

**Hon. Douglas Young (Minister of Transport, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, I understand the hon. member's frustration because we have all read of his experience at a meeting he attended to

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discuss financial matters in the west not very long ago. He only lasted, I am told, some five or ten minutes when they asked him to leave. It is obvious why one would do that.

With respect to the commercialisation of Canadian National, we understand the concerns of the pensioners of CN, the concerns of the employees. We also understand how important it is to taxpayers and to people across the country to have a viable enterprise, operating a coast to coast railroad.

The difference between what the government will do and what the hon. member and his party usually do is that they talk about doing things, we get them done to protect those interests which he considers important.

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[Translation]

#### AIR TRANSPORTATION

**Mr. Gilles Duceppe (Laurier—Sainte-Marie, BQ):** Mr. Speaker, after months of procrastination, the Minister of Transport announced on Friday that Air Canada would be authorized to take advantage of the lucrative Hong Kong market. However, the minister's decision comes quite late, since there is less than a week left to negotiate arrangements for this year with Hong Kong officials.

Will the minister agree that the delay in designating Air Canada as the second carrier to Hong Kong is the only reason which could keep that airline from exploiting this lucrative market during the peak summer season?

**Hon. Douglas Young (Minister of Transport, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, it took years of negotiations to provide Air Canada with an opportunity to fly to Asia. As you know, in January of last year, Air Canada was granted access to Kansai airport, in Japan.

This year, we managed to obtain landing rights in New York and in Chicago. We also made the decision to give Air Canada access to Hong Kong.

I realize that this is painful for opposition members, but I do accept the praises of Hollis Harris, who says that this decision is fair.

**Mr. Gilles Duceppe (Laurier—Sainte-Marie, BQ):** Mr. Speaker, regarding the same issue, I ask the Minister of Foreign Affairs whether he can confirm that negotiating four weekly flights for Air Canada is indeed a priority for the Canadian team which is currently negotiating with Hong Kong officials?

[English]

**Hon. Douglas Young (Minister of Transport, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, the entire question of providing Canadian travellers, business people and tourists with access to and from Hong Kong is one which this government has worked on since the time it came to office.