

*Oral Questions*

rather interesting and strange questions in the House of Commons.

**Mr. Blackburn (Brant):** You should know; you have been in third place for a year and a half.

**Mr. Mazankowski:** The responsibility and the obligation of the federal Government are to approve the corporate plan. The former Minister of Transport knows that. That is a process that has to be followed through consistent with the provisions of the Financial Administration Act. I am advised that that corporate plan has not yet been approved.

Obviously, the announcement of April 12 wherein it was the announced intention of the Government to proceed along the lines of public participation in the ownership of the airline will have some effect upon the future and the health of the airline.

The Government has a responsibility and an obligation to ensure that it remains healthy and strong in the interests of a good airline system, and in the interests of the employees. That is exactly what we are doing.

## FUTURE OF WINNIPEG MAINTENANCE BASE

**Mr. Les Benjamin (Regina West):** Mr. Speaker, the Government four times still has not answered whether or not it is aware of a decision on the Airbus having been made.

The Minister said that there will be no degradation of any of the maintenance and repair depots. He is asking us to believe the unbelievable.

Air Canada is getting rid of its DC-9s, and its 727s, which make up a great majority of its fleet. It will have a handful of 747s and 767s left. Without the Airbus how can it not help but be a degradation of the maintenance and repair centre at Winnipeg? Who is the Minister trying to kid?

**Mr. Nystrom:** The Manitoba voters.

**Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council):** Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member can take issue with the recommendations and the management decisions of Air Canada. He can do that here in the House, or he can do that directly with management.

I regret that he disagrees. He obviously has more expertise in the management of an airline than Mr. Claude Taylor or Mr. Pierre Jeannot. I will put my money on Mr. Taylor and Mr. Jeannot any day before I would on the Hon. Member.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Mazankowski:** The fact of the matter is, Mr. Speaker, that I have laid out the conditions, the commitment, and the requirements under which this privatization process would proceed. I said that it would be put in the form of legislation and/or articles of incorporation. I said it then. I say it today. When the legislation comes out Hon. Members can see for themselves.

[*Translation*]

## DAY CARE CENTRES

## ABSENCE OF GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVE FROM ANNUAL MEETING OF CCCAG

**Mrs. Lucie Pépin (Outremont):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. Last week, the Prime Minister stated that before an election was called, three priority issues had to be dealt with: Meech Lake, free trade and day-care. Mr. Speaker, I wish the Prime Minister would explain, if day-care centres are so important to the Conservative Government, why that Government refused to meet the Canadian Child Care Advocacy Group last Friday. Why did no one from the Government attend the group's annual meeting? Is the Government's absence a reflection of the kind of priority the Conservatives have set on day-care?

[*English*]

**Hon. Barbara McDougall (Minister of Employment and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, first, let me say that, yes, this Government and this Prime Minister regard child care as a priority, unlike the previous Government which, despite the fact that child care was declared an urgent problem in 1970, did nothing for 14 years. Within two years we produced a national child care strategy.

Neither the Prime Minister, my colleague the Minister of National Health and Welfare, nor myself have at any time refused to meet people to discuss this issue.

We have all had meetings with different women's groups across Canada, and with other groups, to discuss this important topic. We are very anxious that it move ahead as planned in our strategy which will add 200,000 child care spaces.

**Mrs. Pépin:** Why was there no representative of the Government last Friday at the conference? There was not one representative of the Conservative Government at that conference.

[*Translation*]

## AMERICAN DAY CARE CENTRES IN CANADA—REQUEST FOR ASSURANCE SUBSIDIES WILL NOT BE PAID

**Mrs. Lucie Pépin (Outremont):** Mr. Speaker, since last January, the Government has been saying that day-care services are not mentioned in the free trade agreement. That does not mean they are excluded, certainly not!

I therefore wish the Prime Minister would promise the House that no subsidies will be paid to American businesses that come to Canada to open for-profit day-care centres.

Can the Prime Minister give the House the assurance that none of these companies will be subsidized, either through the entrepreneurship program or in some other way?

[*English*]

**Hon. Barbara McDougall (Minister of Employment and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, we have introduced our national