

*Government Orders*

I suspect that the decentralization is one small aspect in this total operation of this country. But in one small aspect we have come to grips with one of those areas and saying that perhaps we can cut this huge expense in running the transportation requirements in this country by turning it over to those people who are most responsive in this country and from the community level to say that we can operate this perhaps more efficiently, more cost effectively and provide the same degree of service that we heretofore have had. So I hope that I have been able to answer the gentleman's concerns.

**Mrs. Diane Marleau (Sudbury):** Mr. Speaker, I have to rise today on questions and comments in answer to the Minister of Transport and his quotes on my municipality in my riding of Sudbury.

This is the second time that the name of Sudbury was used. The last time the quote said something about only having two flights a day. Today he is saying 17 flights a week. I have lived in Sudbury for a very long time, 28 years to be exact. The Viscount used to fly I think twice a day in the early sixties.

In 1980 I was elected to municipal council. We had very good jet service in those days. That is 10 years ago, by the way. We had seven jet flights a day in and out of Toronto, Sudbury to Toronto and back, seven. I do not know how you count your 17 but 7 a day. Then we had two jet flights a day east-west. We did not have to fly through Toronto to get to Ottawa or to get to Montreal. I am talking jet flights, two a day.

**Mr. Lewis:** That's without the propellers.

**Mrs. Marleau:** They were not propellers, they were jets. I will tell you that in the early 'eighties Air Canada was not interested in serving Sudbury with jets and tried to get out of it. We as a council commissioned a study and proved to ourselves as well as to Air Canada that we knew they made money on our route. That was back in 1980. That is not mentioning any of the other flights that came in and out. I am talking about jets only. Nowadays, today, we may have somewhat more frequent flights but we have 19 seater planes and 11 seater planes, and two of those seats are bumper seats. I tell you, it is not pleasant. We were far better served before than we are being served now.

We talk about privatizing airports, and government getting out of running airports. Do you know what they

have done with the airport now in Sudbury? They have now said that after eleven o'clock or 10.30 at night, we will no longer have any fire or safety people on hand, so flights can no longer land at that airport. If they do, they do at their own risk.

Last week there was an Air Ontario plane that landed at the airport after eleven o'clock, no safety, no fire, nobody on hand. The Canadian Partners flights, and perhaps I should not be naming names but I am, chose not to land in Sudbury because there was no safety and landed in Toronto and put their people up in Toronto. They were coming in from Ottawa. This was last week alone.

I ask, what improvement in service are we talking about here? What improvement are we talking about? Yes, the people of Sudbury would far rather have jet service like we had in the early eighties than what we have today. I ask my colleague where is this whole business leading us? Are we dismantling the transportation system? Have I forgotten to mention that we are paying three times the price for a flight between Sudbury and Toronto?

I can recall when I sat on council being told what a boon it was going to be to travellers in Sudbury. We were going to get all this terrific service and it was going to be cheaper also. When you are a captive audience, they can charge what they want. You have no choice and you have to take it.

Could the member tell me what is going to happen to the sick people if they have to land at the airport in Sudbury? We are a northern referral centre for medical care.

[*Translation*]

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois):** Order, please! The period set aside for questions and comments has now expired. Resuming debate. The Opposition House leader.

[*English*]

**Mr. Gauthier:** Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. After that great intervention by the member for Sudbury, I do believe the House would like to hear the answer and by House consent would allow him a few minutes to answer, Mr. Speaker.