

*Oral Questions*

[Translation]

## PRESSURES EXERTED ON HAITIAN AUTHORITIES—REQUEST FOR DETAILS

**Hon. André Ouellet (Papineau):** I would like to ask the Minister whether he could be more specific about another statement the Prime Minister made yesterday, which was that his Government was putting pressure on the Haitian authorities to put in place truly democratic institutions. Could the Minister inform the House to what kind of secret pressure he was referring? It seems to me this statement is pretty far-fetched. I am sure it was not a reference to his Parliamentary Secretary's visit to Haiti, since he showed the Manigat Government every conceivable respect.

**Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, there are two aspects here. First of all, about Haiti. The Hon. Member knows perfectly well, since he was part of the group, that a group of parliamentarians, in fact a Committee of the House, as suggested if I am not mistaken by the New Democratic Party, has just held a series of meetings in Haiti. I am waiting for the report, because I believe it will help us develop specific policies we could pursue with respect to that country. The Prime Minister confirmed yesterday Canada's profound interest in what is happening in Haiti and also the issue of democratic government in the area.

As far as Central America is concerned, Canada is prepared to join groups of other countries for the purpose of supporting some kind of marshall plan. Once peace has been obtained, we hope this will encourage governments in the area to continue in their search for peace, and economic development could be the next step.

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[English]

## AIR SAFETY

## AIRLINE EMPLOYEES' ALLEGATIONS OF SAFETY PROCEDURE VIOLATIONS

**Mr. Les Benjamin (Regina West):** Mr. Speaker, I have a couple of questions for the Minister of Transport. First, I would like to thank the Minister for his quick response to my letter of March 24. I would also like to express my appreciation for his commitment to investigate the allegations which are made in seven affidavits which I forwarded to him today to protect the identity of employees who have made allegations about certain airlines.

In the affidavits which I forwarded to the Minister, employees of Wardair and Air Canada made allegations about violations of security procedures. As I said before, the Minister has promised to protect their identity.

**An Hon. Member:** Get on with it.

**Mr. Epp (Provencher):** Go for it, Les.

• (1440)

**Mr. Speaker:** I would ask the Hon. Member to put his question, please.

**Mr. Benjamin:** Will the Minister give the assurance that the investigation he said he will carry out will be conducted under the widest possible terms of reference, and that the RCMP or any other police force necessary will be involved so that the investigation will be seen by the public to be completely pure and above board?

**Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, I can give the hon. gentleman the assurance that the investigation based on these seven affidavits which the Hon. Member sent me at 12 o'clock today will certainly be proper and above board. I will not give any assurance that the RCMP will be involved. That will depend on whether our investigation shows that the facts are correct.

With respect to keeping the names of the persons who signed the affidavits confidential, let me point out to the House that when I replied to the Hon. Member I pointed out to him that we would certainly keep the names of those who supplied the affidavits confidential during the course of our investigation. However, if we find that we must prosecute and charge any airline companies with a violation of the security regulations, we should certainly have to use their names then because they will be required to give evidence. I can assure the House that if we find that any of the airline companies have violated our security regulations they will be prosecuted.

## CHECKING OF BAGS—AIR CANADA INSTRUCTION

**Mr. Les Benjamin (Regina West):** Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the Minister's answer since employees and the public are worried about the cosy relationship that exists between the current Ministry and the airlines.

My supplementary question for the Minister concerns a letter that was sent to him on February 4 from the airline employees representatives. In the case of an Air Canada charter flight from Toronto to Winnipeg to Honolulu, employees of Air Canada in Winnipeg were instructed from Toronto that passengers with Fairway Tours would have boarding passes in their possession—

**Mr. Speaker:** The Chair recognizes that the issue is a serious one and is being treated seriously by both the Hon. Member and the Minister. However, I think the Chair must insist upon the Member putting his question. We must move on.

**Mr. Benjamin:** In light of the fact that the instructions said: "Just check bags, do not worry about security numbers", will the Minister explain why he has not answered the letter of February 4? Does he think that is an appropriate instruction from an airline office in Toronto to an airline office in Winnipeg? Will this result in an inquiry into this incident?