

Oral Questions

representative each from Ontario, Manitoba and Quebec, and three representatives of the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce. I want to mention that we have no objection to some members of this advisory committee consulting the unions concerned. A first effort has been made to call the initial meeting for May 25, and the next meeting will be held on June 7 with some members of this advisory committee.

* * *

[English]

AIR TRANSPORT**PROVISION OF SERVICE TO BRANDON, DAUPHIN, YORKTON AND SASKATOON—GOVERNMENT ACTION**

Mr. S. J. Korchinski (Mackenzie): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport. Since Skywest has been a dead issue for some four or five months and the provinces are apparently not willing to enter into any arrangements with the federal government because of some stipulation which the federal government is apparently making, would the minister indicate what are the immediate prospects of providing air service to the communities of Brandon, Dauphin, Yorkton and his own constituency, Saskatoon, via feeder lines?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, the work is going on with regard to what might be required in the way of particular facilities on those routes. I hope to be in a position to say something definitive before very long.

Mr. Korchinski: May I ask the minister whether he is consulting any airlines, and is he considering the purchase of a Russian plane Ilyushin 21? Is he still prepared to provide financial assistance to provide this service, even without provincial participation, and what deadline is he aiming for?

Mr. Lang: Quite a wide range of consultations are going on. It is not our intention to acquire aircraft ourselves, and the type of aircraft which any carrier might offer is itself part of the discussion, but it would largely be the responsibility of the carrier, depending on the type of service required.

* * *

AGRICULTURE**ALLEGEDLY CONTRADICTORY STATEMENTS CONCERNING IMPORTATION OF EGGS BY MARKETING AGENCY—REQUEST FOR CLARIFICATION**

Mr. R. E. McKinley (Huron-Middlesex): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Right Hon. Prime Minister. I have before me a statement issued by the Minister of Agriculture that the Canadian Egg Marketing Agency should be considered the applicant and first receiver of imported eggs under constraints of a system of monitoring all transactions. At about the same time the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs stated in the House that he was in no way in favour of CEMA being the first importer of eggs, even though it would mean an over-all lowering in the

[Mr. Roy (Laval).]

price of all eggs to consumers. Can the Prime Minister advise the House which of the two ministers was expressing government policy?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, they were certainly speaking very truthfully, one in defence of agriculture and the other in defence of the consumer. I think this is their role. I would point out to the hon. member that he would have to go beyond either statement because the importing permits are not issued by either of the two ministers, they are issued by a third minister, the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. That would indicate to the hon. member that when we have a problem such as this, where ministers are supporting conflicting interests, we solve them in cabinet in a way which is the most profitable for the Canadian people.

* * *

CONSUMER AFFAIRS**ALLEGED CHANGE IN INDICATION OF COUNTRY OF ORIGIN OF IMPORTED EGGS—GOVERNMENT POSITION**

Mr. R. E. McKinley (Huron-Middlesex): While we are waiting for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce to come back, may I put a supplementary question to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. Why is it that eggs which come to Canada from the United States are marked "product of U.S.A.", but when they get to the Canadian consumer they are marked "made in Canada"?

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. McKinley: Why should consumers pay Canadian prices for these cheaper imported eggs from the U.S.A.?

Some hon. Members: Shame, Bryce.

An hon. Member: Think quickly now.

Hon. Bryce Mackasey (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): If the hon. gentleman told me that the stamp had been changed to "laid in Canada", I would understand him, but "made in Canada" with the rooster in the U.S.—I cannot even follow the logic. Under our system when there is a shortage of eggs in Canada, a quota of, I think, 100,000 dozen is brought in at a time from the U.S. and is considered part of the Canadian production.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Mackasey: This is clear and understandable in order to control the market. It is only when that number of eggs is still insufficient that ITC, as the Prime Minister pointed out, designate certain importers to increase the volume of eggs coming in from the United States in order to provide a sufficient quantity for the consumers of this country. Such action in no way affects the producer.