

## PEARSON INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

**Mr. Terry Clifford (London—Middlesex):** Madam Speaker, Pearson International Airport in Toronto handles one-third of Canada's airline passenger traffic and 40 per cent of its international and national air freight.

Modern, efficient facilities are required, not just for Torontonians but for those in my city and indeed dozens of other communities. The government has recognized this. It has announced plans to build three new runways and to have the private sector modernize and manage terminals 1 and 2.

I would like to ask the Minister of Transport to reaffirm the government's commitments. Specifically will the minister assure the House, subject to the report of the environmental panel, that the three new runways will continue to be a high priority and that the competition to redevelop terminals 1 and 2 with a promise of thousands of badly needed construction jobs at no cost to the Canadian taxpayer will move forward?

**Hon. Jean Corbeil (Minister of Transport):** Madam Speaker, I am very pleased that the member has asked this question. It gives me the opportunity to reaffirm my commitment to making sure that the future success of Pearson International Airport continues to grow. It is the same concern we have with all airports in Canada.

We are awaiting the report of the EARP panel on the runways and decisions will have to be made at that time. In the meantime I would like to reassure the member that the future of Pearson airport is in good hands.

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## CANADA POST

**Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry—Prescott—Russell):** Madam Speaker, my question is for the minister responsible for Canada Post. Yesterday Canada Post announced the elimination of over 200 jobs in 85 communities across Canada.

Why does it make sense to the minister to eliminate jobs in small town Canada and send mail hundreds of miles away to be sorted, only to be returned to a few blocks from where it started?

**Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of State and Leader of the Government in the House of Commons):** Madam Speaker, the hon. member's party along with every other

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party in the House said to Canada Post in 1981 when we made it a Crown corporation: "Go out and act like a business. Look at new technologies, improve your efficiency and improve service". That is what Canada Post is doing.

If the hon. member thinks that Canada Post should go back to sorting by hand and using the distribution techniques that were quite proper 40 or 50 years ago, he is alone in that view. In my view we should be applauding Canada Post for being a leader in Canada in seeking efficiency, improved delivery and at a cost that is second to only one in the rest of the world.

**Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry—Prescott—Russell):** No, Madam Speaker, I do not intend to applaud Canada Post for firing hundreds of workers. If the minister wants to do that, so be it.

[Translation]

I wish to ask a question to the minister. According to section 60 of the Financial Administration Act, he and this government have the authority to give instructions to Canada Post. Is he willing, today, to give such an instruction to Canada Post in order to stop all cuts pending an independent evaluation of the new system, which I predict will be ludicrous?

[English]

**Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of State and Leader of the Government in the House of Commons):** Madam Speaker, the hon. member is misinforming the House when he says that employees are being fired. The employees are not being fired. He knows that. Positions are being affected. That is different.

**Mr. Boudria:** Oh.

**Mr. Andre:** If the hon. member would stop barracking from his seat, I could answer him.

The reality is that Canada Post has the most generous job security program of any company in the country. The hon. member knows that. No one will be fired. No individual is going to be displaced or financially disadvantaged.

What will happen is Canada Post will continue to make progress on its efficiency, on its delivery service, on its on-time delivery, and will continue to be a major contributor to the economic growth of this country.