

Inquiries of the Ministry

from monopolistic practices. If so, what action does the government propose to take?

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, it is long established practice not to reveal names of those who lodge complaints or information with us. Those people lodging complaints or information are free, of course, to make their own names public.

Mr. Salisman: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. My question to the minister did not concern privacy. I did not ask him for the names of any people involved in the matter. I asked him whether such complaint had been made and what the government intends to do in this regard?

Mr. Basford: Mr. Speaker, the Director of Investigation and Research under the Combines Investigation Act is, as always, carrying out his statutory duties.

AIR CANADA**WINNIPEG—TRANSFER OF BASE TO NORTHWEST INDUSTRIES LIMITED**

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Transport. A week ago today I asked him a question with respect to the transfer of the Air Canada Winnipeg base at Winnipeg to Northwest Industries Ltd. I asked what steps the government is taking to make sure that the employees affected will not be either unemployed or forced to take work at lower wages than they have had under Air Canada. The minister said he would give me an answer in a few days. Is that answer now available?

Hon. Paul Hellyer (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I got in touch with the officers of Air Canada at once. Unfortunately, the senior personnel of the corporation have been occupied in pressing negotiations with the machinists union during the last few days. This has made it impossible for them to obtain all the information I should like to have before answering my hon. friend's question.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Is the minister not aware that I asked what steps the government was taking? Will he not answer that question now?

Mr. Hellyer: Mr. Speaker, that is already known. The government indicated that it

[Mr. Salisman.]

wanted fair treatment at the time the direction was given to Air Canada in the first place.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): A further supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Is the minister not aware that the government not only said that it wanted fair treatment, but that it assured fair treatment in this matter. I ask, what has been done to keep this commitment?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. This is debate, and not a supplementary question.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Ten o'clock, Mr. Speaker.

[Translation]

INQUIRY OF THE MINISTRY

Mr. Réal Caouette (Témiscamingue): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Prime Minister.

All Canadians recognize that the Prime Minister is very fond of sports and that during the election campaign of 1968 he collected kisses. But, since he collected tomatoes in Calgary recently, could he tell us if they were grown in Canada or imported?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I do not know why the hon. member, or others think that tomatoes were thrown at me. They were thrown at the newspapermen and they are the ones who assume they were being aimed at me and not at them.

[English]

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**ADDITIONAL PASSPORT ISSUING SERVICE**

Mr. F. J. Bigg (Pembina): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Will he use his influence with the cabinet to expand facilities for our most excellent and efficient passport department so that the department can carry on its excellent work in more efficient quarters.

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, the cabinet has already given me that authority.