

Oral Questions

wan governments have decided to abandon the company, does the commitment of the Prime Minister that the federal government will assist in providing prairie air service still stand?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I hope it will be clear to the hon. member that I did not shoot down Skywest but that rather Mr. Evans pulled the plug on the operation by withdrawing in the face of a request for further information. We have stood ready at all times to purchase two aircraft and make them available to a carrier. However, we insisted that it be a carrier with a licence, and I think that is a reasonable proposition. We are still in the position of trying to pursue with Manitoba and Saskatchewan the possibility of providing service. I have had some discussions with the premier of Manitoba about this and he has indicated some willingness to support financially a venture in which the carrier provides a service to the communities of Brandon, Dauphin, Yorkton, between Saskatoon and Winnipeg, and we will be pursuing that question.

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AIR CANADA**ALLEGED TAX SECURITY AT TERMINALS—GOVERNMENT POSITION**

Mr. Dan McKenzie (Winnipeg South Centre): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport and it has to do with lax security at Air Canada terminals in the United States and Canada. Is the minister aware of the complaint by the Gloucester police chief of lack of co-operation on the part of Air Canada to inform investigative authorities of valuable gold shipments passing through the terminal of Air Canada at Uplands and, if not, will he seek the reason from Air Canada and inform this House as soon as possible? Also, would the minister investigate the recent theft of a box of diamonds from Air Canada flight No. 745 from Kennedy airport to Montreal, as authorities are now questioning Air Canada employees in New York in regard to the missing diamonds?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I was aware of the earlier complaint on the part of the chief of police. I have no doubt that that matter is being discussed. I have also full confidence that the second issue will be investigated in the ordinary course and that there will be no need for any additional investigation on my part.

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[Translation]

INDUSTRY**POSSIBLE MEASURES TO AID TEXTILE AND FOOTWEAR INDUSTRIES**

Mr. Gilbert Rondeau (Shefford): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce.

Considering that the textile industry in Canada has really been in a difficult situation for several years and

[Mr. Ritchie.]

that the footwear industry has now the same difficulties as many companies must dismiss more than 80 per cent of their staff, will the minister have the opportunity in the next Speech from the Throne to announce a policy which will rescue these industries which represent now thousands of jobs in the Eastern Townships?

[English]

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I would doubt very much if there would be anything by way of, as the hon. member puts it, something to include in the throne speech on this subject. There is a comparatively new policy with regard to both textiles and the footwear industry which has been in place now for something like a couple of years and we are continuing to examine it. A number of initiatives have been taken under it, but I believe it is generally agreed that the strategy that has been adopted is the most appropriate one in the circumstances. We will continue to look at the situation as various new developments occur, but that policy is the one that I anticipate we will continue to follow.

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IMMIGRATION**REASON FOR DELAY IN DEPORTING ROOSEVELT DOUGLAS**

Mr. W. C. Scott (Victoria-Haliburton): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. Can the minister inform the House whether it has been the decision of the department to allow Roosevelt Douglas, a militant convicted and jailed for his part in the Sir George Williams University riot six years ago, to remain in Canada?

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, Mr. Douglas was ordered deported some time ago.

An hon. Member: Which one?

Mr. Andras: Roosevelt Douglas. He most certainly does not come from Nanaimo-Cowichan and those islands! His deportation order was appealed to the Immigration Appeal Board. The appeal was rejected. He is under a deportation order. He has made several appeals to the Federal Court and to the Supreme Court. There is now another appeal before a judicial body of this country, and until that appeal is disposed of we cannot move to implement the deportation order.

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CONSUMER AFFAIRS**LOSS OF QUANTITY THROUGH CONVERSION FROM POUNDS TO GRAMS BUT SAME SALE PRICE—REQUEST FOR REPORT**

Mr. Hugh A. Anderson (Comox-Alberni): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. Several days ago I forwarded to the minister containers showing a change from pounds to grams, which were 1.2 pounds less in the conversion from pounds to grams. However, the same price was charged by the retail