

*Oral Questions*

CP Air route. Also we are mindful of the general mood, climate or atmosphere of Canada-United States relationships. We are trying to combine that, shake it well, and serve it dry.

• (1130)

## PLIGHT OF WEEKEND TRAVELLERS

**Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Dartmouth-Halifax East):** Madam Speaker, I have a brief supplementary question for the Minister of Transport. Philosophy to one side for a moment, can the Minister tell those Canadians who are planning or hoping to travel later today whether or not they will be able to, and briefly can he indicate the nature of the proposal made by the United States late last night?

**Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Transport):** Madam Speaker, on the first question, I cannot really say. I think sometime after twelve, one or two o'clock, we will have to cut whatever it is that we cut.

**An Hon. Member:** Bait.

**Mr. Pepin:** Cut bait. Let us say two o'clock, but the problem on Continental is that in the many conversations to which I have referred, with Mr. Harman, the Canadian negotiator, or I directly with Mr. Trent of the Transportation Department of the United States, reference was constantly made to mirror image. I understood that to mean that we would give Continental the equivalent or the mirror image of what Canada has on the Pacific. It is a strange mirror, because it tends to agrandize what it is supposed to reflect. They have been asking for much more than the mirror image. The name of the game has been to reduce that and bring it back to the normal job of a mirror, which is to reflect reality.

## SUGGESTED NEGOTIATION OF OVER-ALL CANADA-UNITED STATES PROTOCOL

**Mr. Maurice A. Dionne (Northumberland-Miramichi):** Madam Speaker, my supplementary question is directed to the same Minister. In view of the 100,000 Canadians who are on pins and needles with regard to their travel plans, and who must be very happy that the United States is our friend, not our enemy, will the Minister of Transport have his officials instigate negotiations once this immediate problem is resolved with the United States, to arrive at some kind of protocol whereby this kind of ham-fisted action will not occur again?

**Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Transport):** Madam Speaker, to speak very frankly and confidentially on this subject—

**Mr. Crosbie:** We won't say a word.

**Mr. Pepin:** No, you don't. Traditionally, negotiating with the Americans has always been very complicated because power in the United States is divided among many people, agencies, departments and so on. It is always very complicated. If I look back 15 years, we have always had in the United States a number of people in the American administration or

in Congress who sympathized with Canada, who had a knowledge of it, who understood and made it a point of honour for them to understand our situation. Maybe through lack of effort on my part, or on our part generally, we do not find this commodity as often as we did in the past. The Ambassador is helping tremendously in establishing that good relationship.

In air transportation, because of this crisis on Continental we may have reached a number of them by constantly repeating that Canada is not the United States, that what is good for the United States is not necessarily good for Canada. They are not even sure their deregulation is good for the United States, so how can we go ahead and accept that? The present situation has given us plenty of opportunity to contact a great number of people in the United States. Maybe it will be a blessing in disguise, the fact that we have reached so many of them.

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## ACCESS TO INFORMATION

## DATE OF LEGISLATION'S PROCLAMATION

**Hon. Walter Baker (Nepean-Carleton):** Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Transport in his capacity as Acting Prime Minister. Some time ago the President of the Treasury Board, who is responsible for the administration of freedom of information and, I gather, privacy, indicated that Bill C-43 would be proclaimed and put into law on April 1, 1983. Is that still the intention of the Government?

**Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Transport):** Madam Speaker, I apologize, but I do not know the answer to that. Perhaps my hon. friend could ask it again on Monday when the Ministers will be here.

## NOMINATION OF COMMISSIONERS

**Hon. Walter Baker (Nepean-Carleton):** Madam Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister another question with respect to Bill C-43. There are now public stories appearing in the public press about the nominations of the Government for the positions of Information Commissioner and Privacy Commissioner. It is important with respect to those two nominations that these matters not be dissipated in rumour, and that those people be appointed prior to April 1 which, as far as I know, is still the date the Government has in mind, and the Acting Prime Minister will check that.

Will he also undertake to consult with his colleagues and whatever officials are necessary in order to make the appropriate announcements at the earliest possible date prior to the proclamation of the statute, so that those individuals can be in place before that time?

[Translation]

**Hon. Yvon Pinard (President of the Privy Council):** Madam Speaker, I can assure the Hon. Member for Nepean-Carleton—in fact, he can check with his Parliamentary House