

Oral Questions

Mr. Huntington: Again I direct my question to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance. Has the minister, or have his colleagues, the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce and the Minister of National Revenue, initiated studies to overcome the lengthy hearing process of anti-dumping tribunals? In other words, is he, or are his advisers, considering what are called fast-track procedures for some of these more important issues; and is the minister doing anything to improve the priority of regional considerations and protection for regional payrolls in the decision-making processes of anti-dumping tribunals?

• (1432)

Mr. Lumley: As the hon. member knows, there is a great deal of evidence to be put forward at any anti-dumping tribunal hearing. Although the minister is not happy with the processes of all the hearings, by and large he is doing everything he can to expedite matters in this regard.

Mr. Huntington: Mr. Speaker, would you allow me to ask a question of the senior minister from British Columbia in order to obtain information on what he is doing to represent the interests of the west coast in this matter?

An hon. Member: He is doing nothing.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

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AIR TRANSPORT**PACKAGE TOURS FOR AIR CANADA—REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON GOVERNMENT POSITION**

Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Hastings): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Transport. In view of the urgent need to balance this country's huge tourist trade deficit of around \$2 billion a year, would the minister take the first opportunity on motions to outline to the House what the government is doing to make sure that the government's airline, Air Canada, makes available the same number and kind of package tours, which include hotels, car rentals, etc., to those who wish to visit places of interest within Canada as it makes available to those wishing to visit places of interest in other parts of the world?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, of course, many operators in the business of offering package tours require aircraft to operate under all-charter policies which are now available for domestic travel or for travel into Canada from other countries. I can tell the hon. member that this year Air Canada and Canadian Pacific are coming close to tripling the number of seats they are making available on charter, with competitive fares, during the peak months of the year. That is in addition to the very large number of charters which may be offered domestically under the revised charter policy approved recently by the cabinet.

[Mr. Lumley.]

Mr. Hees: Would the minister take the first opportunity on motions to tell the House how the number of package tours which will be made available this year by airlines in Canada compare with the number of package tours made available by Canadian airlines to those wishing to travel to other parts of the world, especially in view of the great need to overcome the tremendous tourist trade deficit of this country?

Mr. Lang: I will be glad to obtain that information as soon as it is available and make it available to the House, although I doubt it would constitute the substance of a statement on motions. In saying that the number of seats on a charter competitive basis has tripled, I can tell the hon. member that between CP Air and Air Canada together, during the main months of the summer 465,000 seats will be available. I should like to remind the hon. member, also, that the tremendous advantage of these seats is that they are available from almost every city in Canada to every other city, whereas much of the main charter business which may come will tend to be between the principal or larger cities only.

Mr. Hees: I have a final supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Does the minister not realize that the reason this country has a yearly \$2 billion tourist trade deficit is that whatever we are doing is being done far better and far more extensively by airlines, hotels and other governments around the world, and there is need for Canada to get off its seat and get going?

Mr. Lang: Mr. Speaker, what I realize, and I hope the hon. member does, is that the question is far more complicated than simply pointing at one particular aspect such as airline travel. The facts show it is not that kind of travel which has changed dramatically: I am referring to Canadians travelling abroad. There is a significant drop, however, in the number of Americans coming to Canada and their length of stay here. One of the most important reasons for this is that some of our accommodation is more expensive than in the United States. That is due to a whole range of factors, including the level of the minimum wage set by the provinces, which is significantly higher in Canada than in the United States.

These are matters to which we must address ourselves earnestly and not, as the hon. member probably would, as simply a political matter of always being in favour of higher and higher minimum wages, as are his colleagues in provincial governments, but recognizing the serious impact of these factors on the whole economy.

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PUBLIC SERVICE**PROPOSED RAISE IN RETIREMENT AGE—CAPPING OF INDEXED PENSIONS**

Mr. Lloyd Francis (Ottawa West): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the President of the Treasury Board. In a report in the business section of Saturday's *Globe and Mail*, it was reported that at the federal-provincial finance ministers' meet-