

I was not questioning the word of the right hon. gentleman.

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AIR TRANSPORT

ADVANCE BOOKING CHARTER REGULATIONS—REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON RATES SET

Mr. John Harney (Scarborough West): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport and relates to a question I asked him on Friday, February 9, with regard to the advance booking charter rates. His answer then was to the effect that these rates had been published by the Canadian Transport Commission on February 1. In view of the fact there have been subsequent reports to the effect that Air Canada offices are informing travellers that these rates have not been set and that Canadian Pacific as well as Air Canada officials have stated that these rates have not been set, will the minister make a statement to this House to the effect that the rates have indeed been set and also cite these rates to avoid and obviate the very great confusion that now exists in the minds of the air travelling public?

• (1450)

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, the Canadian carriers filed applications with the board. If my memory is right, that was on January 16, and the commission gave its approval on February 1. They now have to enter into a contract with the charterer and come back before the commission before everything is settled. Since then, about 11 foreign carriers have made applications to the board and the board will probably make a decision very soon. Therefore you have the Canadian carriers for which the rates have been established and approved, and the foreign carriers for which the rates have not yet been approved.

Mr. Harney: Could the Minister of Transport clarify the situation further for the House in view of the fact that according to the regulations published earlier this year controlling advance booking charters there is a floor below which foreign carriers may not charge and that floor is clearly related to the prices or tariffs filed on behalf of Canadian carriers with the Canadian Transport Commission which, as far as I can understand, does not approve but simply receives applications for tariffs?

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): Mr. Speaker, I think the commission has approved the contract. As far as the prices are concerned, I think they will be about the same as those in force last year. If the hon. member wants an example, Toronto to London last year was \$235. Now it will be \$240 or something like that.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member will be recognized for one last supplementary, but before we reach the end of the question period the Chair is anxious to recognize some members in the back row who have been waiting for a chance to ask questions.

Oral Questions

Mr. Harney: Mr. Speaker, considering that there is some "Marchandage" with relation to the prices charged by carriers, will the minister inform the House whether he has received a communication from the Consumers Association of Canada urging a thorough investigation of the costs involved in charter services offered by Canadian carriers to ensure that prices charged reflect those costs and do not allow excessive profits to carriers at the expense of the Canadian public?

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): Mr. Speaker, I think I said last week that, as minister, I had not received any representations, but I know that the Canadian Transport Commission did receive some representations.

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ROYAL VISIT

REQUEST THAT PRIME MINISTER RECOMMEND THAT THE QUEEN INCLUDE FORT MACLEOD IN ITINERARY

Mr. Ken Hurlburt (Lethbridge): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. On January 19 I asked my first question in the House, at which time the Prime Minister answered by saying that a communiqué would be sent to Her Majesty the Queen requesting her to place Fort MacLeod on her itinerary. Has this been done and, if not, why not?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the requests of Fort MacLeod and, indeed, Edmonton have been discussed by Premier Lougheed and myself. The hon. member's representations have been taken into account. The upshot is that the Palace feels it really would be impossible in the one short day that will be spent in Alberta in order to celebrate the centennial of the RCMP to meet every request for her presence in every part of that province. In discussion with the premier's office, the conclusion was reached that Calgary would be the best place for the Queen to assist in the celebration of the RCMP centennial. I am sure the Palace regrets that Her Majesty cannot spend more time out west, but the House will recall that the first decision was to celebrate the centennial in Ottawa. It was after my talks with Her Majesty in December that she agreed to spend one day in Saskatchewan and one in Alberta.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Hurlburt: I wish to ask the Prime Minister whether a communiqué to Her Majesty did leave his office on January 19 or on any date until now?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, I have not got the exact dates of correspondence between my office and Buckingham Palace. If the hon. member is wondering whether his own request to me was communicated to Her Majesty, the answer is no, because the question of Fort MacLeod had already been discussed and a solution had been arrived at to the effect that it would not be possible or desirable to have the whole day which is allocated to Alberta spent in Fort MacLeod, and a choice had to be made.