

Oral Questions

minister give us the assurance that his department will give careful consideration—before the budget—to this new strategy that would help improve the financial situation of married couples with children and that of single parent families in this country?

[English]

Hon. John McDermid (Minister of State (Finance and Privatization)): Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister was extremely concerned about family issues and a family caucus was organized within our government, led by the member for Calgary North who has done an excellent job. He has made certain suggestions to the Minister of Finance which I can assure all members of the House will be given very careful consideration for the upcoming budget.

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AIRLINE INDUSTRY

Mr. Iain Angus (Thunder Bay—Atikokan): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport. Polls released today indicate that 85 per cent of Canadians want a made-in-Canada solution to the financial problems facing Air Canada and Canadian Airlines.

Will the Minister of Transport commit himself and his government to finding a made-in-Canada solution? Will he further commit himself to not raising the threshold of foreign ownership in any Canadian airline or in any Canadian transportation entity? Will he make that commitment?

Hon. Jean Corbeil (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member will remember I have said for many months, whenever either of the two airlines make a proposal to salvage the industry and salvage the competitive nature of the aviation industry in Canada, that we would look at it.

Mr. Iain Angus (Thunder Bay—Atikokan): Mr. Speaker, while I recognize that the minister has not received any formal proposals from anyone, he must be aware that there have been discussions between officials of the airlines and the Government of Canada. He must realize that Canadian is desperately seeking some solution. He also knows that the CEO of American Airlines was in Toronto this week.

Will he make a clear indication to the people of Canada that he will not deviate at any time for any

reason from the 25 per cent maximum foreign ownership prescribed in the National Transportation Act?

Hon. Jean Corbeil (Minister of Transport): Maybe I have not been clear enough, Mr. Speaker. We will look at any proposal that will ensure that we maintain a viable, efficient and secure airline industry in Canada.

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[Translation]

CROSS-BORDER SHOPPING

Mr. Jean-Guy Guilbault (Drummond): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs.

Given that Canadians shop more and more across the border in the United States, does the minister intend to launch a buy Canadian campaign or to announce some other measure to counter the disastrous effects of cross-border shopping?

Hon. Pierre Blais (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs and Minister of State (Agriculture)): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member raises an interesting question.

Yes, I have seen the newspaper article about it. I must point out that a study published this year showed that Canadians' major expense items—housing, transportation, education, health—cost less in Canada than in the United States if the broader picture were considered and not just the price of a quart of milk or a pound of butter.

So I think that a campaign to make Canadian consumers aware of the importance of buying at home and particularly, Mr. Speaker, of participating in the prosperity and competitiveness initiative of the industry and employment ministers will make Canadians realize that if we are more competitive, the Canadian market will be more active and consumers will gain thereby, Mr. Speaker.

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[English]

OIL INDUSTRY

Mr. George S. Baker (Gander—Grand Falls): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources.

Is the minister aware that Gulf Canada, which just pulled out of its \$1 billion commitment to Hibernia, has now made a similarly large commitment to an oil project in Siberia? Will the minister confirm what Revenue