

Senator POULIOT: What you said was most interesting. Did the Government ascertain the reason why the service given by the *Ladyships* of the C.N.R. was not any more successful?

Mr. LANE: It was very successful for a number of years, and in the West Indies the *Ladyboat* are still referred to very affectionately. They refer to them as "Our Lady Boats." They were the main means of communication between many of these islands and the outside world. There are now a number of shipping services and, of course, air transportation is becoming increasingly important.

In 1958 when we started our aid program for the West Indies we built two ships for them which are called the *Federal Maple* and the *Federal Palm*. The main purpose was to facilitate communications between the various West Indian Islands. These two ships are still operating. They ply between the various territories in the West Indies rather than between Canada and the area.

Senator POULIOT: They are regarded as part of our aid to the West Indies too?

Mr. LANE: That is right, sir.

Senator POULIOT: Thank you very much.

Senator SMITH (*Queens-Shelburne*): Mr. Chairman, on the same subject, may I ask whether the fact that a service like that of the *Ladyboats* is no longer available is having any appreciable effect on the increase in trade possibilities with the West Indian countries?

Mr. LANE: This is something that we are studying currently—the whole question of transportation in the West Indies—in preparation for this forthcoming conference with the West Indies. This will be one of the subjects discussed at that meeting.

Senator SMITH (*Queens-Shelburne*): That is, transportation between Canada and the Caribbean area, other than between the various components of the area?

Mr. LANE: That is right, sir.

Senator SMITH (*Queens-Shelburne*): I am not too knowledgeable on this subject, although I should be, being a Nova Scotian, but it strikes me that there is a fairly adequate privately operated service which does serve the area. I have never heard of any serious impact on our trade possibilities because of the need for more opportunities to ship. There might be some argument by exporters to the effect that through a subsidized service transportation costs would be lowered, which would open up opportunities. Is that a general understanding of the situation?

Mr. LANE: Yes, I think that that would be a correct statement.

Senator CAMERON: I have two questions, Mr. Chairman. Is it still true that the only direct air service we have is that of Air Canada to Nassau and Jamaica, and it is not likely that that will be extended beyond to Trinidad?

Senator MACKENZIE: There is a flight from Toronto to Barbados.

The CHAIRMAN: Have you a clear answer to your question?

Senator CAMERON: Yes. I was not aware that they had extended it to Antigua and Trinidad. My second question is with respect to the tourist industry, which is obviously very vital to the West Indies. It should be a means of helping them to a great extent, and also of helping us because this is the sun porch of Canada. What steps are being taken to increase tourist trade?

Mr. LANE: Well, the airlines are, of course, doing a great deal of promotion in this field. The Canadian tourist movement to the West Indies has increased a great deal in recent years. In fact, more Canadians travelling abroad go to the Commonwealth Caribbean than to any other area except the United States at present.