

and what department of the government is expected to reply. We do our best to prod those concerned to provide answers within a reasonable time, and we will keep right on doing so.

**Senator McElman:** It may have become confused with the maritimes' harp seal.

## TRANSPORT

### SECURITY AT CANADIAN AIRPORTS

**Hon. Philippe Deane Gigantès:** My question is addressed to the Leader of the Government. Earlier this month, the Special Senate Committee on Youth was travelling in the maritimes, and there was absolutely no check of our luggage, hand-held or otherwise, at various places. Does this indicate that the Department of Transport is less worried about maritimers being kidnapped than people from other parts of Canada?

**Senator Marshall:** They are less worried about senators.

**Senator Roblin:** It is not maritimers who were in the forefront of their consideration; it was undoubtedly my honourable friend.

I will have to make a special inquiry, I see, from now on to make sure that his baggage is given a double examination. I will undertake to investigate the possibilities of that happening because no one would like to see his sojourn in this vale of tears cut short because of any negligence on our part.

**Senator Gigantès:** I would like to express my gratitude to the honourable Leader of the Government for the promise to have me harassed by customs officials.

**Senator Roblin:** Not customs officials—security officials.

**Senator Gigantès:** I noticed, however, that people who are not members of this chamber—in particular, those who do not make up the majority in this chamber—were also not examined on those occasions in the maritimes. I would suggest to the honourable Leader of the Government that he should tell his colleague, the Minister of Transport, that there are many valuable maritime members whom we would not like to see kidnapped, even if they are not senators.

● (1510)

**Senator Roblin:** I can tell my honourable friend that I always take his suggestions seriously, indeed.

**Hon. Hazen Argue:** Honourable senators, I have a supplementary question on that point. Is it clear—I suppose it is clear—that baggage on domestic flights is not examined? I wonder if the Leader of the Government in the Senate would be so kind as to provide honourable senators with the directives that have come from the Ministry of Transport concerning the examination of baggage going on to domestic and international flights? I think that we should be supplied with the official instructions from the Minister of Transport concerning this important question.

**Senator Roblin:** I would like to make sure that my honourable friend understands that baggage taken physically on to

planes by the passengers is checked in the way he is familiar with. He is probably asking about baggage that is checked.

**Senator Argue:** That is correct.

**Senator Roblin:** To the best of my knowledge, that is not subject to the same kind of examination. I am not, however, about to pretend to the Senate that this is a field in which my expertise is unlimited. My expertise is very limited, indeed. I think it would be advisable for me to make further inquiries before being completely positive in this regard.

**Senator Argue:** Could the government leader provide us with the precise directives that have been issued from the Minister of Transport? If those show that there is a blank there, fine, but let us have before us the official directive so that we know what the position has been. It is crystal clear to me that these deaths would not have taken place if the proper precautions had been taken.

**Senator Roblin:** I think that this information is in the public domain right now.

**Senator Argue:** I would think that the government leader could provide it. If it is in the public domain, fine; he has facilities available to him, and I think that the matter is of sufficient importance to warrant his producing that information.

**Senator Roblin:** We now come to one of the responsibilities of ministers answering questions; that is, they are not responsible for duplicating what is already in the public domain. If the information is not in the public domain, then my honourable friend's question is a reasonable one and I will refer it to my colleague.

**Senator Argue:** I do not think that that is a good enough answer.

**Senator Roblin:** Too bad.

**Senator Argue:** If it satisfies other honourable senators, fine, but from time to time we can ask questions in the Senate that are in the public domain. We want to know the answer from the government. We cannot spend all of our time doing this research. I think it is an important question—

**Senator Flynn:** The Senate cannot spend all its time listening to you!

**Senator Argue:** Oh, now, now, now; this is the most talkative and the most interruptive senator.

## AVIATION DISASTER

### LOSS OF AIR-INDIA AIRCRAFT—TREATMENT OF INSURANCE CLAIMS

**Hon. Philippe Deane Gigantès:** My question is addressed to the Leader of the Government in the Senate. Has the government consulted with the insurance industry to make sure that the exemption for cause such as war is not going to be applied on the insurance payments due to the heirs of the victims of this disaster?