

*Oral Questions***TRANSPORT****MOVEMENT OF FREIGHT THROUGH METROPOLITAN TORONTO—
DISCUSSIONS WITH M-TRAC**

Hon. Michael Wilson (Etobicoke Centre): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport. About two months ago I wrote to the Minister of Transport inquiring whether he would be prepared to meet with representatives of a new organization in Toronto called M-TRAC, which is the Metropolitan Toronto Railway Action Committee, with regard to their very real concerns about the movement of freight through metropolitan Toronto to non-metropolitan Toronto destinations.

I also raised this matter about a month ago by way of a motion under the provisions of Standing Order 43. To date, I have not received a response. Could the minister state today whether he is prepared to meet with representatives of M-TRAC; and, if so, when he would be able to do that?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Transport): Madam Speaker, I try as hard as I can, within a 27-hour day regime, to meet as many groups as I possibly can. I am sorry if I did not accommodate this one. I will see to it immediately.

Mr. Wilson: Madam Speaker, we are asking the minister to try just a little harder. Possibly he could answer his mail. Is the minister aware that chemicals are being shipped from Sarnia to points north and east of metropolitan Toronto and are being moved directly through residential areas of metropolitan Toronto.

In addition, is the minister aware that CP Rail is soliciting freight business from the Michigan area in the United States which is destined for the New England states but will be shipped through Canada, specifically through the residential areas of metropolitan Toronto? This is the reason for the concern of the residents of the area. I ask the minister whether he is aware of this and whether anything is being done about it.

Mr. Pepin: Madam Speaker, I am very much aware that many municipalities in Canada are concerned with the transportation of dangerous goods. It is a growing preoccupation in Canada. That is exactly why we have Bill C-18 presently in committee, to develop criteria to streamline the regulations on the subject and, in co-operation with the provinces and municipalities, to develop a much needed safety control system. The bill really begins to answer that concern which is obviously a growing one in the country.

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AIR TRANSPORT**DECISION ON TORONTO-HALIFAX ROUTE**

Mr. Howard Crosby (Halifax West): Madam Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Transport which is supplementary to a question asked concerning the decision of the Canadian Transport Commission. As I understood what the

minister said in this House, Eastern Provincial Airways will be permitted to fly direct from Halifax to Toronto and return, and CP Air will not be in competition with them.

Will the minister, first of all, indicate when the full text of his decision will be available, and will he indicate when we can have it so that we can study it? Will he, at the same time, confirm the basics of the decision with respect to the Toronto-Halifax flight?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Transport): Madam Speaker, a communique is available now. I will see to it that my hon. friend gets a copy of it.

Mr. Crosby: Madam Speaker, as a supplementary to the minister, I hope he will bear in mind that the reason for this horrible decision of the Canadian Transport Commission was, in the first place, confusion over regional air policy. I would like the minister to undertake, now, to review the regional air policy so that Crown agencies and commissions, such as the Canadian Transport Commission, will not make this kind of mistake in the future.

An hon. Member: Make it in the House.

Mr. Pepin: Madam Speaker, in my rather professorial approach to these questions, that review of policy has been going on.

An hon. Member: That is a terrible insult to professors.

Mr. Pepin: The decision is in accordance with that review. One of the main aspects of it has to do with the possibility of regional carriers serving an adjacent area. In this instance, the adjacent area is jumped one notch in order to include Toronto.

Mr. Lawrence: Why insult the academic community?

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CITIZENSHIP ACT**SIGNATURES ON APPLICATIONS FOR CITIZENSHIP**

Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Secretary of State. I wonder if the minister will inquire into the practice under the Citizenship Act whereby Canadian residents applying for Canadian citizenship may be required to sign their applications in the script in use in their country of origin, not the script used prevalently in Canada.

Would he confirm which natives of which countries are required to sign in their original native script, or does this apply only to Chinese, whether they are of long residence in this country or of fairly short residence?

Hon. Francis Fox (Secretary of State and Minister of Communications): Madam Speaker, I thank the hon. member for drawing this concern to my attention. It is the first time it has been brought to my attention. I will be pleased to look into