

ister assure the House that if the sale of Transair were to be approved by the Department of Transport and the Canadian Transport Commission, it would be based on the provision that the overhaul and maintenance facilities of Transair, presently located in Winnipeg where approximately 600 Manitobans are employed, would not be transferred from Winnipeg as was done with Air Canada with the approval of this government?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, the question was framed in a hypothetical way but I should like to tell the hon. member that this has not been hypothetical and that in all the discussions there has been a clear understanding that the maintenance base of Transair would be maintained at Winnipeg.

Mr. Epp: A final supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In view of the meeting of Western premiers in Brandon in which the view was clearly expressed that the maintenance facilities were to remain in Winnipeg, could I have the assurance of the minister and the government that if the sale were to take place, those maintenance facilities would remain in Winnipeg?

Mr. Lang: Mr. Speaker, I indicated the understanding that they would remain was clearly a part of all discussions. The question the hon. member asks me in a direct way is really not related to governmental administrative responsibility. The thing I would have to be satisfied about is the undertaking that would have to be made at the time the matter came before the CTC and the government.

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AIRPORTS

CALGARY—DISCUSSIONS WITH AIRLINES ON COST OF LEASE— REQUEST FOR PROGRESS REPORT

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North): Mr. Speaker, my question is also for the Minister of Transport. In light of the fact that the international airport in Calgary serves the oil and gas companies and that the new depot was promised first by two former ministers of transport, Mr. Hees and Mr. Pickersgill and that there has been such a long delay with the result that the cost is now five times what it would have been originally, may I ask the minister if he has been able to negotiate with the seven commercial airlines that say they could not afford to pay the lease cost under the conditions set down by the minister and the department? Has there been a consummation of that agreement? We are just about to open the new depot, I understand, after these long years of frustration.

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, the final meeting to agree upon the arrangements has not taken place to date or at least had not taken place when I inquired last week. I can tell the hon. member that as usual he has nothing at all to worry about. Everything will go very well and Calgary will be able to be very proud of what will be a very fine airport.

Oral Questions

AIR CANADA

REASON FOR CHANGE IN SCHEDULE OF FLIGHTS BETWEEN CALGARY AND OTTAWA

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North): Mr. Speaker, I can understand why the minister grins; all of those in the front row are in the habit of using all this rhetoric. When the minister is looking into the other matter which I asked about and which he did not answer, I wonder if he would check why Air Canada has changed its air routes so that it only takes three and a half hours to fly from Calgary to Toronto, but to get any connection to this city you have to wait at least two and a half hours. Would the minister look into that and see why western Canada is discriminated against?

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INCOME TAX

MEASURES TO REDUCE EXCESSIVE DEDUCTIONS FROM PEOPLE WORKING IN QUEBEC AND RESIDING IN ONTARIO

Mr. Lloyd Francis (Ottawa West): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of National Revenue. Is the minister in a position to tell the House what decision she has made concerning the measures she will adopt to reduce the excessive tax deduction now being made in the case of public servants residing in Ottawa and being moved to Hull?

[Translation]

Hon. Monique Bégin (Minister of National Revenue): Mr. Speaker, unfortunately I cannot give any answer today to the hon. member, to his colleague from Ottawa Centre or to members opposite. But as soon as I get an answer—a positive one, I hope—I shall convey it to interested parties in the most diligent way.

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● (1140)

[English]

AGRICULTURE

CANADIAN POSITION DURING NEGOTIATIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL SUGAR AGREEMENT

Mr. Jack Murta (Lisgar): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Agriculture. The international sugar agreement negotiations started in Geneva, Switzerland on, I believe, April 18. Is Canada participating in these negotiations and what are our trading plans in the negotiations?

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, we are participating in the program. One member asked me that question in the committee. We had our people here from Geneva to discuss the program. The government approved the program that could be used in negotiations. I will have to find out whether I have the right to inform the House and the hon. member. If so, in due course I will outline our program, what