

AIR CANADA

ABANDONMENT OF SHORT-RUN SERVICES—
PROVISION OF INFORMATION TO
OTHER AIRLINES

Mr. Jack Cullen (Sarnia): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Transport? In view of the fact that Air Canada will abandon its short-run services, will the minister make representations to Air Canada to the end that information this airline has already given to some airlines wishing to apply to the Canadian Transport Commission for this business will be made available to all airlines which may be interested in securing this business?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): Yes, Mr. Speaker. I will be glad to make these representations to Air Canada.

THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

PRAIRIE PROVINCES—DISCUSSION AT
FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL CONFERENCE
OF PLANS FOR ASSISTANCE

Mr. John L. Skoberg (Moose Jaw): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Prime Minister. In view of the desperate economic situation facing the western provinces at this time, will the Prime Minister indicate whether the government will reveal its plans for the assistance of the western agricultural economy at the forthcoming federal-provincial conference?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, some aspects of the economic situation in all parts of the country will naturally come under discussion. I cannot predict what the representations of the provinces will be and, therefore I cannot predict what position the government will take in response to them.

Mr. Skoberg: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Can the Prime Minister not say whether plans the federal government has prepared for the assistance of the west will be revealed at this conference? Will the government not do that instead of merely taking into consideration what the west is proposing?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, hon. members are asking me to show more respect for Parliament and not make such announcements elsewhere but to Parliament. I will answer his question by saying that I will very seriously consider that suggestion.

Inquiries of the Ministry
EXTERNAL AFFAIRSUNITED STATES ABM SYSTEM—METHOD OF
EXPRESSING DISAPPROVAL

Mr. R. Gordon L. Fairweather (Fundy-Royal): Mr. Speaker, I have a question that has alarming implications for the Prime Minister. Are we to believe that caucus leaks are a credible substitute for quiet diplomacy, as attested to in today's *Globe and Mail* which deals with the anger of the right hon. gentleman—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I apologize to the hon. member if I appear to interrupt him, but from what I have heard of the question so far it appears that I would be justified in ruling that it is not in order.

Mr. Fairweather: Mr. Speaker, I have rephrased the question to meet this contingency. Are there not more effective and orthodox means of registering Canada's disapproval of the ABM Safeguard build-up than caucus leaks?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I have some doubts about the rephrased question. I will rephrase my ruling and say that the rephrased question is argumentative.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

SUPPLEMENTARY PENSIONS BENEFITS BILL

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the President of the Privy Council with reference to the business of the House. Inasmuch as the order paper, particularly so far as government orders are concerned, is becoming a bit thin, I wonder if the bills to be dealt with between now and Easter can be introduced and given first reading so that we can study them, and so that the new research people will have something to put their teeth into? In particular, and very seriously, may I ask if we may expect very early the bill on supplemental pension benefits which the government promised would be in effect by April?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (President of the Privy Council): Yes, Mr. Speaker. If the hon. member will read the notice paper he will see that three bills have been added today. Several others on the list, as he may have noted, have been given first reading in the Senate. The bill to which the hon. member referred in particular will, I expect, be available for first reading very probably in the week after next.