

● (1440)

[Translation]

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

STORAGE OF DANGEROUS MATERIALS IN QUEBEC

Mr. Pierre H. Cadieux (Vandreuil): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of the Environment or the Acting Minister.

In view of the obvious danger of any PCB spill and the outcry among the residents of the western part of Montreal, can the Minister tell us what he intends to do about the proposal of Reliance Power Equipment Ltd. to store 227,000 litres of PCBs in Pointe Claire?

Hon. John A. Fraser (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans): The matter raised by the Hon. Member is very important. Unfortunately, the Minister is not here today, but I shall take due note of his representations.

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AIR TRANSPORT

PURCHASE OF NORDAIR SHARES BY SQT—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Hon. André Ouellet (Papineau): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport. As he knows, under the Aeronautics Act, federal authorities must rule on the purchase of Nordair shares by the Société québécoise des transports. Can the Minister tell this House what position the Canadian Government will take in this regard? Yesterday, the Minister of State for Transport said that the federal Government was in a quandary. What does the Government plan to do? Will it approve this transaction or not?

[English]

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, the Member is absolutely correct. There is a provision in the Aeronautics Act, Section 15(1), which governs that type of proposed transaction. There is also a provision in the National Transportation Act, and in the CTC regulations. When a formal presentation is made, the Cabinet will certainly consider it. But as of this date the latest information I have is that no such proposal has been presented.

[Translation]

REGIONAL CARRIERS—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Hon. André Ouellet (Papineau): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary. Yesterday, the Minister of State said that it could take several months and I would like the Minister to tell us the reason for such footdragging. This is a very simple question. The transaction will be either approved or rejected. Relations between this Government and the Government of Quebec seem to have changed because it would be quite simple indeed for this Government to approve the request of the

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Quebec Government. Why this delay? Mr. Speaker, if the Minister refuses to answer this question, he might tell me what are the Government's intentions with regard to regional carriers. Is the Government in favour of a merger or does it want to promote greater competition?

[English]

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, before we are in a position to accept or reject the deal, we will have to see the deal.

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CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS

RETENTION OF WINNIPEG AS REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS

Mr. Bill Blaikie (Winnipeg-Birds Hill): Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Transport will be aware of the widespread concern in Winnipeg which followed the creation of a new position in the CNR, that of senior vice-president, to be located in Edmonton. Can the Minister assure Winnipeggers that Winnipeg will continue to be a regional headquarters for the CNR, that there will be no amalgamation of regions, and that there will be no outflow of CNR management jobs from Winnipeg to Edmonton?

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, yes, I can give the Hon. Member that assurance. As a matter of fact there will be a new CN regional vice-president appointed in the next few days or weeks. There is no contemplation of a mass transfer of people from Winnipeg to Edmonton. As I said earlier, this is a restructuring of management, and I think the Member should applaud the fact that the decisions affecting investment plans by CNR in western Canada will be made in western Canada. Clearly the management team which will be situated in Winnipeg, Edmonton, and Vancouver will be in a position to make those decisions in the West.

GOVERNMENT INTENTIONS

Mr. Bill Blaikie (Winnipeg-Birds Hill): Mr. Speaker, we want more than an assurance that there will be no mass transfers; we want an assurance that there will be no significant outflow of management jobs from Winnipeg to Edmonton. We went through this a couple of years ago when, under the previous Liberal Government, there was a rumour that there would be a significant downgrading of Winnipeg in relationship to Edmonton. We now have a Conservative Government in power which said, before its election, it would look after western Canada, Winnipeg being part thereof.

I would like the Minister to say to Winnipeggers not that there will not be a mass transfer but that there will not be a significant outflow of management jobs from Winnipeg to Edmonton. This is what we need to know.