

Oral Questions

mittee. I met with that committee on two occasions and I find that the work they have done until now is most worth while.

An hon. Member: When?

Mr. Fox: If the hon. member would let me complete my answer and if he would stop interrupting, perhaps he would learn some of the things that are going on.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Fox: The hon. member mentioned the blue paper which will be published by the Applebaum committee. The blue paper originated with my predecessor in this portfolio. The members of the Applebaum committee tell me they are not in a position to produce a policy paper at this stage; that they need more time before they can present the government with a complete policy paper in that regard.

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[Translation]

AIR TRANSPORT**INQUIRY AS TO PROGRESS OF NEGOTIATIONS ON SALE OF NORDAIR**

Hon. Roch La Salle (Joliette): Madam Speaker, fortunately there is one Quebec member who now and then raises questions about that province. My question is directed to the Minister of Transport. A month ago I asked him if he would soon announce the sale of Nordair and I would like to ask him today whether negotiations have progressed and what groups or individuals in Quebec are apparently interested in the purchase of Nordair.

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Transport): Madam Speaker, consultations are being carried out in that case. I could not name from memory all Quebecers interested in Nordair. There are a great number and I will send a complete list to my hon. friend if he would like me to do so.

INQUIRY WHETHER MAJORITY OF SHARES WILL BE HELD BY QUEBECKERS

Hon. Roch La Salle (Joliette): Madam Speaker, I wish to point out to the minister that I would like very much to know who is interested. I would also like to ask him if he is prepared to tell us, supposing that the sale is concluded in the not too distant future, whether he will make sure that most of the shares will belong to Quebec interests.

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Transport): Madam Speaker, I cannot give a percentage, but I can very clearly indicate that there is no doubt in my mind that Quebec interests should play a very important role in the corporation set up as the result of that sale.

[English]

CANADIAN WHEAT BOARD**GRAIN—INITIAL PAYMENT TO FARMERS**

Mr. Bill McKnight (Kindersley-Lloydminster): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport, who is responsible for the Canadian Wheat Board.

Will the minister confirm that the members of the advisory committee of the Canadian Wheat Board were present, and can he say whether they were consulted about the reduction of the initial payment to western Canadian farmers of 50 cents a bushel from the October adjustment price set by the past government?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Transport): Madam Speaker, I assume that my hon. friend is referring to the question he asked me the other day about payments going back to 1972-73. If that is the case, let me tell him that I inquired about this from my immediate advisers and was told that they were very surprised at the existence of such a situation, which explains why I was not aware of it. A further inquiry is being made now, I understand, from the Canadian Wheat Board in Winnipeg and I am awaiting a report on that subject.

What I am trying to indicate, Madam Speaker, is that the subject is a very, very complex one, so that even my immediate advisers were not aware of its existence.

Mr. McKnight: Madam Speaker, I should like to repeat my question to the minister. I will be very slow and will read it very carefully.

Will the minister confirm whether the members of the advisory committee of the Canadian Wheat Board were present when the decision was made to reduce initial payments to producers by 50 cents a bushel from the October 15, 1979, initial payment adjustment level set by the past administration?

Mr. Pepin: Madam Speaker, again, this is a very detailed question.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Pepin: I will consult immediately with the minister responsible for the Wheat Board and I will report on it as soon as I can.

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HEALTH AND WELFARE**PROVISIONS RESPECTING ORPHANED CHILDREN**

Hon. Alvin Hamilton (Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain): Madam Speaker, my question is addressed to the Minister of National Health and Welfare: it is on a subject on which she is very well informed.