

*Oral Questions***HOUSING**

Hon. Alan Redway (Don Valley East): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister Responsible for Constitutional Affairs.

In the Charlottetown constitutional accord, exclusive jurisdiction for housing is given to the provincial and territorial governments. Is it the intention of the government that the present federal mortgage insurance fund, the fund which now provides 5 per cent down payments for first time home buyers, be privatized or disbanded? Alternatively, is it the intention that each one of the provinces and territories set up its own mortgage insurance fund, thereby duplicating 12 times over what the federal government does at the present time with one fund?

• (1500)

Right Hon. Joe Clark (President of the Privy Council and Minister Responsible for Constitutional Affairs): Mr. Speaker, the intent is certainly not to duplicate. In fact, the intent and the result of this agreement will be to reduce duplication that already exists in a number of fields.

As the hon. member would know from reading the accord and following the debate as closely as he has, some areas in some of the six fields will be retained by the federal government. For example, our responsibility for housing for aboriginal peoples will be maintained. There will also be some other aspects with regard to CMHC that will be retained by the Government of Canada. Many of these matters are subject to some negotiation with the provinces involved.

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AIRLINES

Mr. Iain Angus (Thunder Bay—Atikokan): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport.

Thousands of airline workers and their families are wondering if they are going to have a job tomorrow, literally as we speak. The reason they are wondering about their own future is that four years ago this government turned over all economic decision-making to the marketplace by deregulating the airline industry.

Will the government accept its responsibility for the financial mess of Air Canada and Canadian and its responsibility for the workers, and act now to reimpose its will on the industry? Or is this government prepared to let the industry crash and take its workers with it?

Hon. Jean Corbeil (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member knows that the airline industry in Canada is going through the same globalization and revolution as other countries. It is well known that there is a 20 per cent surplus of employees in the airline industry. No matter what happens in the next few months there will be a readjustment in the number of workers employed by one or the other of the airlines.

This government has in place, as has been said many times by my colleague in the Department of Employment and Immigration, an adjustment program to take care of these people.

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PRESENCE IN GALLERY

Mr. Speaker: I wish to draw to the members' attention the presence in the gallery of His Excellency Michal Kovac, Chairman of the Federal Assembly of the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic.

Some hon. members: Hear, hear.

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PRIVILEGE**STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS**

Mr. Pat Nowlan (Annapolis Valley—Hants): Mr. Speaker, on June 24 I gave you notice of a question of privilege on questions and statements of members. In view of the agenda of the House today and being one of the last members to upset the Prime Minister and delay anything that he might want to do—we had discussions this morning trying to be very practical about this and using a little common sense—and so that I do not lose my privilege, I would ask that this matter be deferred. We could have some further discussion and hopefully pick an appropriate time to have it debated.

Mr. Speaker: I want to thank the hon. member. We have had a private discussion and I can assure the hon. member that he has not lost his position and that there will be further discussions.