

AIR TRANSPORT

REASON FOR RATIO OF NEW ROUTES AS ALLOCATED BETWEEN CANADA AND UNITED STATES

Mr. Les Benjamin (Regina-Lake Centre): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Transport in light of his statement issued to the press yesterday concerning the agreement between Canada and the United States on new air routes. Can he advise the House what is the rationale or reason for the ratio of two routes for Canada for every three routes for the United States?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I do not think we can make this kind of assessment because we have to take into account the length of the routes and the important centres of population, and just to take the number of routes would give an entirely false impression.

DIVISION OF NEW ROUTES TO UNITED STATES BETWEEN AIR CANADA AND PRIVATE AIRLINES

Mr. Les Benjamin (Regina-Lake Centre): In view of the fact Air Canada is a publicly owned carrier, can the Minister of Transport assure the House that the major share of these new routes will be granted to Air Canada rather than to Canadian Pacific Airlines and other privately owned carriers?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Vegreville.

DOMESTIC AND GLOBAL POLICIES

Mr. Don Mazankowski (Vegreville): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a supplementary question to the Minister of Transport. In view of the impact the announcement the minister made regarding new United States-Canada air routes will have, hopefully, on the airline industry in Canada, can he advise the House whether the government will be announcing a new domestic air policy for Canada? Also, can he advise the House when we may expect the long-awaited announcement on the global air policy which he has referred to in the House on many occasions?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I am very anxious to make this announcement and I hope to do so before too long.

Mr. Benjamin: Inside the House?

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): Yes, I can do it in the House if the House is ready to accept it.

Mr. Mazankowski: On a point of order—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member rises on a point of order. I appeal to hon. members for co-operation with the Chair in order to permit as many questioners as possible by raising as few points of order and questions of privilege as possible.

Mr. Mazankowski: My point of order is for the purpose of clarification. I wonder whether the minister can advise the House whether the government is considering formulation of a new domestic air policy to cover the allocation

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of air routes for Canadian Pacific Airlines and Air Canada?

Mr. Speaker: Order. The hon. member will appreciate that is hardly a point of order. He has asked a supplementary question. Perhaps it would be simpler if the Chair allowed the minister to reply, after which I will recognize the hon. member for Crowfoot. Again I suggest to hon. members that it is not in order to ask questions under the guise of points of order. However, the question having been asked, the minister might be given an opportunity to reply.

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): Mr. Speaker, there is an existing policy concerning domestic civil aviation in Canada. It is known. I do not think it is our intention to change it. So far as the allocation of routes to the airlines is concerned, this will be known as soon as the agreement is ratified by both governments.

PROPOSED INCREASE IN LANDING FEES FOR SMALL AIRCRAFT—REVIEW OF DECISION

Mr. J. H. Horner (Crowfoot): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is directed to the Minister of Transport. It has to do with landing fees and landing rights within Canada for small aircraft. I understand the department is going to increase landing fees for small airplanes within Canada on October 1. Has the department reviewed that decision and is it now going to change it and lower landing fees for small aircraft?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I think I have already answered this question in the House, and my reply now will be about the same. We have received many representations on these fees. We are reviewing the whole matter now, and before October 1 we will establish a policy.

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[Translation]

SOCIAL SECURITY

ASSISTANCE TO PERSONS BETWEEN 60 AND 65 UNABLE TO FIND EMPLOYMENT—POSITION OF MINISTER

Mr. Eudore Allard (Rimouski): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask a question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare.

Considering that thousands of citizens between the age of 60 and 65 have great difficulty in finding employment, does the minister intend to submit a special bill to help these people?

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, this subject is examined in the working paper which was tabled in the House on April 18 of this year. It is now being discussed with the provinces.

[English]

Mr. Speaker: The Chair will recognize the hon. member for Regina-Lake Centre who has a supplementary to his previous question, after which I will recognize the hon. member for York-Sunbury.