

## AIR SAFETY

### AIRPORTS—TRANSFER OF BAGGAGE FROM DOMESTIC TO INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS

**Mr. Fernand Robichaud (Westmorland—Kent):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Deputy Prime Minister. Yesterday the Minister of Transport said there were two exceptions to a passenger match when baggage is put on board aircraft. Today we learn from people involved in baggage transfers of another exception. When baggage is transferred to a connecting international flight from a domestic flight it is not x-rayed or verified so as to ensure complete security. In some cases baggage match is only done in the case of a phoned-in threat. Does the Minister expect terrorists to call in their intentions?

What will the Deputy Prime Minister do to correct this serious security lapse and put an end to this unverified inter-line baggage transfer?

**Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister, President of the Privy Council and President of the Treasury Board):** Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Transport responded to a number of questions raised yesterday with regard to airport security and pointed out the vast improvements over the last year or so. That was acknowledged by the International Civil Aviation Organization which indicated Canada had one of the best security systems in the world. I think he indicated there is no absolutely foolproof security system, and that Canada was working on a baggage match system for domestic flights. However, we are unable to start the system until an adequate computer system can be put in place.

While the Hon. Member has raised an important issue, it is also important to recognize that solid progress has been made. Whenever these kinds of discrepancies are drawn to our attention, Transport Canada certainly investigates, as it is investigating a number of allegations made in this House yesterday.

[Translation]

OBLIGATION TO X-RAY ALL BAGGAGE—GOVERNMENT POSITION

**Mr. Fernand Robichaud (Westmorland—Kent):** Mr. Speaker, although an effort has been made, we know there are still some serious flaws. We were promised that everything would be done to ensure that passenger safety would be first-class.

Today, we heard about an American carrier that has asked to have all baggage X-rayed before loading.

Is the Deputy Prime Minister prepared to ask Canadian carriers to do the same? Don't Canadians deserve the same protection Americans get on U.S. flights? Is the Deputy Prime Minister ready to take action?

[English]

**Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister, President of the Privy Council and President of the Treasury**

## Oral Questions

**Board):** Mr. Speaker, I am not sure what qualifications the Hon. Member has as an expert on airport security but I can—

**Mr. Gray (Windsor West):** What are yours?

**Mr. Mazankowski:** What are mine and this Government's? We have heeded the advice of the International Civil Aviation Organization. It has strongly recommended that the baggage match system is much more effective than the x-ray system, and that is precisely why we are following the advice of the experts in the field.

• (1450)

I believe that the International Civil Aviation Organization has many experts in the field and they are part and parcel of the world organization in which all member countries work together in close harmony to deal with the whole problem of international terrorism. I think the Hon. Member should applaud Canada for the progress it has made over the last two years.

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## TRADE

### CANADA-UNITED STATES TRADE AGREEMENT—REFERENCE TO BROADENING SCOPE

**Mr. Bill Blaikie (Winnipeg—Birds Hill):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Right Hon. Prime Minister or the Secretary of State for External Affairs. It concerns the American attempt to broaden the scope of the agreement, as Ambassador Ritchie has said. If this new context has been created in which the Americans can seek to have at least three items reconsidered, why did Canada not seek to have some items reconsidered? Did Canadians say what they wanted to broaden or renegotiate on the basis of the many charges which have been made against the agreement, or did we simply let the Americans dictate the agenda once more?

**Mr. John McDermid (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister for International Trade):** Mr. Speaker, if he is honest with the House, I think the Hon. Member will admit that the Americans did not dictate the agenda and that the Canadian team went into this with support from the sectoral advisory committees and people from the International Trade Advisory Committee such as The Consumers' Association of Canada. The Hon. Member for Ottawa Centre keeps yelling: "What about real people?" I am not sure to whom he is referring as real people.

I can tell the Hon. Member that his assertion that the agenda was set by the Americans is just not true. As a matter of fact, in setting out its goals in the free trade pact Canada reached every priority that it hoped to reach.

**Mr. Blaikie:** Mr. Speaker, the Americans are dictating the timeframe in which this must be decided and dictating what