

to Toronto you can sit at the airport for three or four hours waiting for a connecting flight to Ottawa.

Would the Leader of the Government ask Air Canada to increase its capacity between Ottawa and other points or allow some other airline to provide the service? Air Canada seems to have a lot of objections when another airline wants to provide certain service. Could Air Canada be asked to provide the service or allow someone else to do it?

Some Hon. Senators: Hear, hear.

Hon. Raymond J. Perrault (Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, it may be useful at some point for the distinguished chairman of the Standing Senate Committee on Transport and Communications to ask representatives of Air Canada to appear before his committee to answer questions of the kind posed by Senator Lucier.

I would point out that the honourable senator, in terms of travelling, has to come from by far the most distant point to attend the deliberations of the Senate, and one can understand his special exasperation at the situation as it exists. The discussion in the chamber will be brought to the attention of the appropriate authorities of Air Canada.

Hon. Edward M. Lawson: On this subject, if I may inform Senator Lucier, I have just attended a meeting with the vice-president of Air Canada on another matter, and during the course of our discussion I raised with him the need for a competitive non-stop service from Vancouver to the nation's capital. Mr. Miller assured me that this is being actively considered by Air Canada at this time.

ALBERTA

RUMOURED DISTRIBUTION OF HERITAGE FUND

Hon. Louis-J. Robichaud: Honourable senators, my question is for the Minister of State for Economic Development. I do not expect an answer today, but I hope he will take my question as notice.

It is currently rumoured that a request was made to the Government of Alberta to distribute its Heritage Fund to all residents now residing in Alberta. If that were the case, how much would each individual resident of Alberta receive from that fund?

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of State for Economic Development): Honourable senators, I have heard that rumour many, many times. If the honourable senator can give me some basis for this assertion, then I would try to find out how much is in the Heritage Fund. We would also have to know the date, because the population of Alberta increases between five and seven thousand a month. We would have to know several more specific things before we could find out how much each individual would get if the fund was distributed.

Senator Robichaud: The date would be January 1, 1981. Could the honourable minister ascertain the amount of money that each individual citizen of Alberta would receive out of the Heritage Fund if this rumour were based upon fact?

● (1435)

Hon. Jacques Flynn (Leader of the Opposition): Honourable senators, I rise on a point of order. That question is not within the competence of the Minister of State for Economic Development. It concerns the Government of Alberta, and I suggest that Senator Robichaud should write to Premier Lougheed if he wants an answer.

Senator Olson: Honourable senators, I can take the question as notice, but I am not sure that all of that information is available to me.

Senator Flynn: Not to you.

GRAIN

CROWSNEST RATES—INVESTIGATION OF CP RAIL

Hon. Duff Roblin (Deputy Leader of the Opposition): Honourable senators, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of State for the Canadian Wheat Board. He has undertaken, I think, to give me a statement on government policy as to whether or not an investigation of the Canadian Pacific Railway will be entered into. I would like to know if he has any statement to make about the decision on that matter.

Hon. Hazen Argue (Minister of State for the Canadian Wheat Board): Honourable senators, I do not have anything to report on that question at this time. I am still as interested in it as the honourable senator asking the question, and as soon as I am able to report on it, I shall do so.

Senator Roblin: I am much reassured by my honourable friend's interest in the subject; however, I would ask him to indicate whether he can give us an approximate date as to when he expects the policy on the Crow rate to be announced. I notice that the Minister of Agriculture in the other place did make some estimate as to when that might be. I think he said in the first quarter of the coming year. Would my honourable friend be prepared to substantiate that statement?

Senator Argue: I am not able to substantiate that statement. I do not know what the grounds are for making it. The whole idea is under consideration, but I do not have any idea when an announcement will be made.

Senator Roblin: I should tell my honourable friend that he has been given credit, along with his seatmate, the Minister of State for Economic Development, for holding up the decision. I am not really willing to say whether that statement is correct or not, but I know it is being widely mooted in western Canada. Perhaps I should give him an opportunity to say whether or not he is holding it up.

Senator Argue: Was the question to me?

Senator Flynn: Both jointly—the gold dust twins.

Senator Roblin: Both honourable ministers were given credit for disposition of that matter, so I think either one could answer, or each can answer for himself.

Senator Olson: Honourable senators, I can think of several ways to answer the question.