

Oral Questions

he would do it in such time that this proposal from Manitoba can have some impact.

Hon. David Smith (Minister of State (Small Businesses and Tourism)): Madam Speaker, I would like to assure the Hon. Member that the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce has in fact been monitoring the matter very closely and he is aware of all of the time frames involved.

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THE ADMINISTRATION**CABINET USE OF EXECUTIVE AIRCRAFT—REQUEST FOR NEW GUIDELINES**

Mr. Pat Nowlan (Annapolis Valley-Hants): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Transport. Since the Minister recently moved to withdraw some perks from some public servants, will he now move with equal dispatch, as one of the most senior public servants, to establish a new set of guidelines for Cabinet use of executive aircraft, such guidelines not to be subject to individual judgment of purpose or passenger?

● (1500)

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Minister of Transport): Madam Speaker, as the Acting Prime Minister pointed out yesterday, the use of the government executive fleet has existed now for some 30 years. It was designed to ensure that Ministers of the Crown, as well as Royalty and other people who need convenience—

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Axworthy: Madam Speaker, I am sorry that members of the Opposition would be so disrespectful of the Royal Family.

The fact of the matter is that the fleet is at the disposal of Ministers, taking into account the pressures of time and the need to fulfil responsibilities under the very heavy agenda to Parliament and Cabinet. The guidelines established in 1977 are being applied with the responsibility and standards which I think are necessary. However, as the Hon. Member knows, we are taking a look at a number of aspects of the operation of my Department and that may be one of the areas which will come under review. If the members of the Opposition would give us a chance to get rid of the Crow Bill soon, I would have more time to look at such matters as that.

Mr. Nielsen: You kept the bells ringing today.

Mr. Nowlan: Madam Speaker, perhaps we should start calling Members opposite Royal Hon. Members, instead of Hon. Members.

Madam Speaker: Order, please. Does the Hon. Member have a question?

PUBLICATION OF PASSENGER LISTS

Mr. Pat Nowlan (Annapolis Valley-Hants): Madam Speaker, I am talking about the revelations of the abuse by Cabinet, at a cost of \$10,000 a day for 100 days. If the Minister has nothing to hide and feels there is no abuse, then surely as a preliminary step of resurrection he would undertake to publish the passenger manifest list from both the Transport and Defence fleets on a monthly basis, so the public would find out what is going on and there would not be any suspicion of a cover-up. Will he do that?

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Minister of Transport): Madam Speaker, to begin with let me make it very clear there are no abuses of that system, nor is there any attempt to cover up. We will review the regulations, and perhaps the Hon. Member's recommendation might be accepted. I will look at his proposal because I want to assure him and other Members that there are no abuses and there will be no abuses in the use of that fleet.

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CANADIAN WHEAT BOARD**INITIAL PRICES FOR GRAIN**

Mr. Len Gustafson (Assiniboia): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport. Since he and the Minister responsible for the Canadian Wheat Board are both in the air, is he aware of the serious cash flow situation that farmers have? The Canadian Wheat Board, as well as grain companies, have been calling for an increase in the initial payment for grain to farmers. When will the Minister announce it, and how much will it be?

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Minister of Transport): Madam Speaker, just to correct the record, the Minister of State for the Wheat Board is in China selling grain, and I was in Saskatchewan selling the Crow.

Mr. Hnatyshyn: Eating crow.

Mr. Axworthy: No; selling.

Some Hon. Members: Eating crow.

Mr. Axworthy: No. Well, Madam Speaker, in comparison to the members of the Opposition who are eating turkey all the time.

Mr. Nielsen: Then I find you most distasteful.

Mr. Axworthy: Madam Speaker, in response to the Hon. Member's question, if his colleagues will allow me to answer, the fact is that the Wheat Board has made recommendations and the Minister responsible has discussed those recommendations with members of the Grain Advisory Board. They are now being formulated into Cabinet proposals and I expect that, as soon as the Minister of State returns from his selling mission overseas, the Cabinet will take that under immediate