

so fast that I thought it far more important to ensure that these funds be used to provide additional housing stock which should help everyone down the line.

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● (1500)

AIR TRANSPORT

REQUEST FOR SERVICE BETWEEN EASTERN SASKATCHEWAN AND WESTERN MANITOBA—APPLICATION OF TRANSAIR FOR JET SERVICE

Hon. W. G. Dinsdale (Brandon-Souris): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Transport arising from the cancellation of the air service into eastern Saskatchewan and western Manitoba last January by the Air Transport Committee with the approval of the government. In light of the promise made by the Prime Minister at his famous airport conference in Winnipeg on May 23 that this service would be restored and upgraded in the interest of development and employment opportunities, can the minister inform the House when this promise will be implemented.

An hon. Member: In the next four years.

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): That is a fair assumption, Mr. Speaker. First, we have to buy two Saunders from the Manitoba government, something I signed for this morning, so we are in the process of achieving or realizing this promise.

Mr. Dinsdale: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Now that we are getting action on this matter at long last, would the minister also urge the ATC to consider immediately, or at the earliest opportunity, the application of TransAir to bring jet service into this region?

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman knows very well the relationship between the CTC and the Department of Transport. This decision has to be taken by the Transport Committee of the CTC, not by the Department of Transport.

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FISHERIES

REQUEST FOR REVIEW OF OPERATIONS OF FRESHWATER FISH MARKETING CORPORATION

Mr. Dean Whiteway (Selkirk): Mr. Speaker, this is my first question in the House and I am sure you can understand that I am nervous. I have never talked to the Prime Minister before.

An hon. Member: Neither has anybody else.

Mr. Hees: You will not get any answers either.

Mr. Whiteway: My question is related to fisheries but I am going to aim high and direct it to the Prime Minister. In view of the fact that the livelihood of the fishermen in the Northwest Territories, Saskatchewan and Manitoba is in jeopardy, would the government undertake to review

Oral Questions

immediately the activities of the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation and in particular the activities of the processing plant in Transcona with the objective of moving the facilities to Selkirk and/or Gimli.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Whiteway: There is another little part, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. While I am most anxious to accommodate the hon. member on his first question, I do wonder about the patience of the other members who might not have asked their first question or might like to get on to some of the other business.

Mr. Whiteway: Mr. Speaker, I was trying to mimic the Minister of Finance, and thought I could sneak in a little speech as well. In view of the fact that the Prime Minister is so often sniffing the thin air around the metaphysical peaks of political intellectualism—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

An hon. Member: Very true.

An hon. Member: You blew it!

An hon. Member: You started well and finished quick.

An hon. Member: That was the punch line.

An hon. Member: He never heard of Gimli.

SUGGESTED CHANGE IN OPENING AND CLOSING DATES OF TUNA SEASON—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Heath Macquarrie (Hillsborough): Mr. Speaker, a question for the Minister of Fisheries and may I add my congratulations on his appointment. Can he advise if he is giving sympathetic and favourable consideration to the request of the tuna sports fisheries group in Prince Edward Island for a delay in the opening and closing dates of the Gulf tuna season, thereby giving a boost to the tourist and fishery industry of the province?

Hon. Romeo LeBlanc (Minister of State (Fisheries)): Mr. Speaker, any question put by the hon. member would always receive favourable and sympathetic hearing. I have heard the arguments in favour of changing the opening and closing of the tuna season and I think there are valid arguments. I have asked that the fishermen and charter boat operators be fully consulted before a firm decision is made and this process is under way.

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FOOD PRICES REVIEW BOARD

POSSIBLE EXTENSION OF TERMS OF REFERENCE TO INCLUDE MERCHANDISE OTHER THAN FOOD

Mr. Jack Marshall (Humber-St. George's-St. Barbe): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs following upon the question put by the hon. member for St. John's East. In this consideration of expanding the terms of reference of the Food Prices