

disappeared in the past few days. Is there not something that can be done to update these computer files?

Senator Roblin: We will be flooded with newspaper stories, some of which will be wrong and some of which will be right, in connection with this tragedy, and we will have to monitor the situation as we go along. With respect to the specific question asked by my honourable friend, I shall take it as notice.

Hon. Royce Frith (Deputy Leader of the Opposition): Honourable senators, I have a supplementary question. Obviously the Leader of the Government shares Senator Sinclair's views about this training school. I wonder if, for instance, the co-operation suggested by the leader between those countries that are not promoting terrorism could include in this case our telling the United States Government that we resent the fact that the terrorists who may have been responsible for the Air-India disaster were trained in the United States. I agree that it is a little more difficult to tell the same thing to Bulgaria, although we could do so. It seems to me that the government should make it clear that we do not take with equanimity the statements made today about a school which apparently is taken as a normal school and the headmaster of which, if I heard correctly, said, "Oh, I thought that they were going to go back to India and use all these terrorist skills I taught them to fight for Sikh independence," as if that made it acceptable. I am urging the government not to let this matter go by without making some statement on behalf of Canadians to the effect that we do not take this sort of thing as normal and that we do not treat it as being at all acceptable.

Senator Roblin: I can tell my honourable friend that I got the message.

● (1450)

Hon. Joyce Fairbairn: Honourable senators, I have a supplementary question to the Leader of the Government in the Senate. I join with my colleagues in deploring the tragic circumstances of the Air-India flight on the weekend. I gather from news reports that an overall review of security is being conducted by our government. Does the Leader of the Government in the Senate know if this review extends beyond the security review for flights destined for foreign airports and includes flights within Canada? I ask this question because I think that some of us were surprised to learn that there was no surveillance of luggage on domestic flights. That took me back to testimony before the Standing Senate Committee on Transport and Communications which is studying the transportation of dangerous goods. Recently, Mr. G. E. Lindsay, who is the Vice President for Government Affairs of the Air Transport Association of Canada, gave some examples of difficulties encountered in shipping both by shippers and individuals on aircraft in Canada. One example he gave was that of a professor who was carrying some nitric acid in his luggage on an aircraft for use in a demonstration, and the stopper came off en route. No one knew that item was in there. His baggage disintegrated. Mr. Lindsay said it did not do the plane much good either.

[Senator Sinclair.]

Another example was oil samples containing PCBs being shipped on one of our airlines in Ontario. This was not discovered either until after the plane had landed.

To go back to my question, could he assure us that in this security review precautions for domestic flights will also be seriously considered in terms of upgrading our standards?

Senator Roblin: Honourable senators, in respect of domestic flights, as everybody knows, hand-held baggage carried on the aircraft does go through an electronic surveillance which is effective to a degree. Baggage that is checked in, in most cases, as far as I know, is not further examined on the theory, I suppose, that no one would check a piece of luggage that is going to blow himself or herself up, but the examples that my honourable friend has given indicate the problems that one does encounter. In smaller airports there is no baggage check at all because there is no machinery set up to do it.

You have a very difficult question here. Whether in the long run it will be thought advisable to do the most complete check, that is, a personal, visual examination by opening the person's luggage and finding out what it contains, is the right way to go or not, is a good question.

At the moment I am under the impression that the review that is being undertaken is starting with flights to destinations abroad. I am not sure that it is ending there, but I shall endeavour to find out.

Senator Frith: Honourable senators, I should like to touch on one more aspect of this question. Since the Leader of the Government and I seem to be on the same beam of civility on this question—

Senator Roblin: Comme toujours!

Senator Frith: —I would like to make a suggestion that when considering what we might do to make our feelings known, particularly to the United States about this school for terrorists, that he might consider obtaining a tape of that interview that appeared this morning on the CBC radio news at eight o'clock and sending it to the President of the United States because he may or may not know about that interview. I say that because I cannot believe that the President would not take some action if he heard that interview, given the things that he has been saying about terrorism and the situation in Beirut and, no doubt, his feelings also about the Air-India crash. Perhaps we can fortify our position by just letting him know exactly what took place because I believe that if he could do it, given what he has been saying, he would close that school.

Senator Roblin: Of course, I agree that one picture is worth a thousand words. I will take the suggestion under advisement.

Hon. Joseph-Philippe Guay: Honourable senators, I have a supplementary question for the Leader of the Government in the Senate. It relates to the announcement that was made early last week before those fatal air accidents occurred, that it was the intention of Transport Canada to relieve many of the airports of the RCMP services and replace them with unarmed security guards. I think that this serious matter ought to be