

*Oral Questions*

**Mr. Kaplan:** I am certainly prepared to see the Bill referred as a subject to be discussed in the way it has been done in connection with other Bills before second reading.

**Mr. Broadbent:** Madam Speaker, this is one of those rare occasions in the House where civility might prevail. I can simply say to the Minister that we are prepared to consider that very seriously.

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### THE ADMINISTRATION

#### TAXATION OF TRAVEL BENEFITS PROVIDED BY MINISTERS

**Hon. Elmer M. MacKay (Central Nova):** Madam Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of National Revenue pertaining to what benefits are imputed or otherwise accrue when Cabinet Ministers take friends, or relatives not directly related as are wives and children, on Jet Stars. The Minister knows that in the private sector an executive officer of a corporation, or somebody has to pay tax on this sort of thing unless he can prove the trip is necessary for business. Has the Minister considered what the situation is with regard to the case I am now asking him about?

[Translation]

**Hon. Pierre Bussi eres (Minister of National Revenue):** Madam Speaker, the Department of National Revenue has issued a very clear Interpretation Bulletin on benefits which might be taxable and which are in addition to the income of a taxpayer. According to the Interpretation Bulletin, the first explicit condition for such a benefit to be taxable is that it must be directly related to a job. If in the exercise of job related duties an individual is given a benefit, it becomes taxable, and the Department of National Revenue has issued guidelines on that subject.

[English]

#### TAXATION OF IMPUTED BENEFITS ACCRUING TO MINISTER'S FRIENDS

**Hon. Elmer M. MacKay (Central Nova):** Let me be more specific, Madam Speaker. The Minister of International Trade, now known by some of his friends as "Wing Commander NC", which means "now caught", is quoted in today's *Globe and Mail* as saying that he would take friends along for free flights unless there is a specific rule against doing so. Assuming there is no specific rule against doing so, will the friends have any imputed taxable benefits, or will the Minister, because in the private sector people even who have the use of cars are taxed on that use, as the Minister knows. This should be straightened out.

[Translation]

**Hon. Pierre Bussi eres (Minister of National Revenue):** Madam Speaker, I should think that the Hon. Member would

be the first one to take the Minister of National Revenue to task for giving any indication, ruling or interpretation whatsoever with respect to the Income Tax Act when a question has to do with a private individual.

[English]

#### USE OF EXECUTIVE AIRCRAFT BY MINISTERS

**Mr. Howard Crosby (Halifax West):** Madam Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Transport concerning the use of the Department's executive aircraft by Ministers and others. I want to ask him what the policy is with respect to persons who may be carried on those aircraft and, in particular, whether the possibility of taking members of one's family extends to in-laws. I also want to know who is responsible for preparing the manifests for the flights and who is responsible for providing the information with respect to passengers, particularly the status of those passengers, be they family, staff, or whatever?

**Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Transport):** Madam Speaker, I have already stated what the guidelines were on the subject. But there has recently been a de facto change in view of the future access to information legislation. The manifest, which includes the names of the passengers, will from now on be accessible to whomever Members of Parliament for example would like to have this information.

#### STATUS OF PASSENGERS ON FLIGHT TO ANTIGUA

**Mr. Howard Crosby (Halifax West):** Madam Speaker, I want to point out to the Minister of Transport that the manifest for the infamous flight taken by the former Minister of State to Antigua indicates a Mr. and Mrs. Golightly, who have been identified as the Minister's mother-in-law and her husband.

**Mr. Nielsen:** Gerry "go lightly" is right.

**Mr. Crosby:** Unfortunately the manifest indicates they are employees of the Secretary of State. Could the Minister clarify that, and tell us whether his Cabinet colleague was carrying employees connected with the Department of the Secretary of State, or simply taking his in-laws on a holiday?

**Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Transport):** Madam Speaker, the information I have is that the Minister of State for International Trade was on his way to represent the Government in Antigua, he was representing the Government of Canada at an official ceremony. That is my information. The plane had to make a refueling stop, and the place where the plane stopped was a normal stopping place on the way to where the Minister of International Trade was going.

**Mr. Lewis:** And they were standing there.