

*Oral Questions*

Canada's future and we believe that this is the most appropriate time to do this planning and at the same time create 3,200 jobs over the next five years in the Toronto region.

**Hon. Jean Chrétien (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, how is it that the minister tells us today that he must proceed with this when studies on the needs at this airport are not yet completed and when the minister himself said that he did not want to consult anybody, that he was not interested in talking with anybody involved, except his contractor friends who could make money?

**Hon. Jean Corbeil (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, it is absolutely unbelievable that the Leader of the Opposition, of a supposedly serious party, would talk like that here in the House. We have consulted all interested parties. Last Monday evening, we even had a meeting in Toronto with two Ontario government ministers and four mayors from the region. During that meeting we explained very clearly to these concerned that there was no problem with the process. They simply wanted to propose a delay in order to set up a new local authority that meets none of the criteria of privatization through a local authority that were established four years ago by this government. Only on Monday did all those people realize that there should be another local authority in which the three levels of government would be involved.

• (1420)

Among the people who were there, the mayors of the two largest communities in the Toronto region systematically opposed the creation of such an authority.

[*English*]

**Hon. Jean Chrétien (Leader of the Opposition):** Two years ago, Mr. Speaker, questions were asked in this House about privatization of airports and the government said at that time that it was not the policy of the government. It was said here in this House.

The minister has now said that developers will have 90 days to come up with proposals for taking over these terminals. Canadians should know that one company, Paxport, has a major head start. It even had a scale model of a proposed new terminal airport on display at the Rideau Club for members of Parliament two years ago. A principal in that company is Don Matthews, a

former chairman of the PC Party and fund raiser for the Prime Minister in his leadership bid.

We all know that the Prime Minister likes to roll the dice. Can the minister assure us that in this case he is not loading the dice for his friends?

[*Translation*]

**Hon. Jean Corbeil (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, we should perhaps recall that when submissions to build terminal 3 were requested, the person that the Leader of the Opposition just referred to was one of the bidders, but he did not get the contract. Instead, the contract was awarded to friends of the Liberal Party.

[*English*]

**Mr. John Manley (Ottawa South):** Mr. Speaker, my question is also for the Minister of Transport.

I have gone through the proposal, the press release, everything that he released yesterday very carefully and the numbers frankly do not make any sense. Using the minister's own growth projections with respect to passengers, Pearson airport does not reach its 28 million person capacity until well past the year 2000, not 1997 as the minister stated yesterday. Likewise, his figures on job creation are totally hypothetical.

This announcement simply does not make sense at the present time. Will the minister therefore withdraw his request for proposals, go back to the drawing board and come forward later when he can prove to Canadians that what he is going to do is in the best interest of Canadian travellers and Canadian taxpayers?

**Hon. Jean Corbeil (Minister of Transport):** The answer, Mr. Speaker, is no. We are proceeding because we believe that this is what is needed in order to have the proper capacity at this airport in 1997-98. The time to do it is now because this is the time that we are going to get the best prices.

**Mr. John Manley (Ottawa South):** Mr. Speaker, the minister should know that he can refurbish as many airport terminals as he wants and that is not going to help with the problems of capacity at Pearson airport. If the minister is actually trying to tell people that runway expansion at Pearson is a certainty, why does he not come out and say that clearly so that people understand what is going on here? If that is what he is saying, why