

foremost the negotiating group will be responsible for satisfying the criteria for the transfer of employees—

Some Hon. Members: Author, author!

Mr. St. Germain:—and we will be proceeding immediately?

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Member for Humber—Port au Port—St. Barbe.

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AIR CANADA

MAINTENANCE WORK IN WINNIPEG

Mr. Brian Tobin (Humber—Port au Port—St. Barbe): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Deputy Prime Minister. When it comes to the Government and the manner in which it handles important questions in western Canada, it is obviously true to say that you can't teach an old dog new tricks.

This is the same Government that last year withheld information on the awarding of the CF-18 maintenance contract until a provincial election was over, notwithstanding all kinds of unconfirmed reports at the time of what action was to occur.

The same Government is now in the process of doing the same thing with respect to Air Canada, its sale, its acquisition of new aircraft, and the impact that this will have on Winnipeg.

My question to the Deputy Prime Minister is a very straightforward and clear one. Can the Deputy Prime Minister tell the House of Commons today, and through the House the people of Winnipeg, Manitoba, and indeed of all western Canada, that when Air Canada announces within days, perhaps within a week or two of the election campaign in Manitoba, what aircraft will be purchased to replace the 727, that that aircraft will be maintained in the city of Winnipeg? Can the Deputy Prime Minister give that simple, clear assurance today?

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, as westerners we certainly do not have to take any lessons from the Hon. Member, or from any Liberal Member of Parliament as to how the West should be treated.

We have the bitter memories of the National Energy Program, we have the bitter memories of 25 per cent interest rates, and we have the bitter memories of the confiscation of \$60 billion out of western Canada into the coffers of the federal Government, so we certainly know that, Mr. Speaker.

Air Canada has given the Hon. Member the assurance he wants. I have quoted it, and I will requote it. I have given assurances. I have indicated it would be enshrined in legislation and/or the articles of incorporation.

Oral Questions

I ask Hon. Members to reread page 14363 of *Hansard*. It is all there. I stood by it then, I stand by it today, and I will stand by it in the future.

MAINTENANCE WORK ON NEW AIRCRAFT

Mr. Brian Tobin (Humber—Port au Port—St. Barbe): Mr. Speaker, we in the Liberal Party, and those of us from Newfoundland, believe that Canada belongs to all of us from border to border, and I make no apology for expressing a concern about western Canada, or for asking questions about issues of importance to western Canada. I want some westerners to pay more attention to Newfoundland in the process.

The Deputy Prime Minister says that he has a bitter memory. His memory has failed him, because he did not answer my question. I repeat it. It is a simple and clear question. It is a litmus test for the weasel words that are being issued today.

Can he give a clear assurance today that whatever aircraft is chosen to replace the 727 it will be maintained fully in Winnipeg, totally in Winnipeg, as the 727 is today? Anything less than a clear answer is an indicator that it is the CF-18 nightmare all over again for western Canada.

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, we can certainly see the acts of desperation in the hands of the Liberals. I have given an answer on many occasions. I stand by that answer. I stand by the statement that I made in the House. I stand by the statement of Air Canada. It is clear for everyone to see.

Mr. Axworthy: What is the answer?

Mr. Tobin: The answer is no.

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CANADA POST CORPORATION

RESIDENTS AGAINST MAILBOXES—OPPOSITION TO SUPERMAILBOXES

Mr. John R. Rodriguez (Nickel Belt): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister who is responsible for Canada Post.

Mr. Blackburn (Brant): Irresponsible.

Mr. Rodriguez: Irresponsible, perhaps is the appropriate word.

This weekend 30 groups of Canadians from across the country banded together to form Residents Against Mailboxes, or RAM for short. This group represents over 1 million Canadians. One million Canadians are saying to the Government that they are not satisfied with the second-class service they are receiving when they have to go to supermailboxes.