

Proceedings an Adjournment Motion

● (10:20 p.m.)

Second, a new passenger terminal is now being constructed at this airport with the concurrence of the Department of Transport, which is participating to the extent of \$89,000. This is a commitment in writing and it is imperative that we know just where the commitment stands at the moment. Unfortunately, the effective date is February 16, next Monday. I trust that the Minister of Transport (Mr. Jamieson), who has in his replies shown a great deal of sympathy and understanding for this problem in terms of ensuring equity and fair treatment for all parts of Canada, will give the matter his urgent consideration.

I trust the parliamentary secretary will communicate to him what I have endeavoured to say tonight with respect to subsidizing Air Canada. Air Canada is indirectly subsidizing many communities by providing service. I should also point out that the huge, government expenditures which are to be made in central Canada, running into hundreds of millions of dollars, to keep pace with the rapidly expanding air age are perhaps necessary. I very sincerely point out, also, that western Canada must keep pace with this rapidly expanding air age, and I suggest to the government that this area is entitled to a fair share of government support.

Mr. Gérard Loiselle (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for Brandon-Souris (Mr. Dinsdale)—

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): You are a busy man tonight.

Mr. Loiselle: Yes, I am a pinch-hitter. The hon. member for Brandon-Souris was complaining at the beginning that he was surprised to see that the parliamentary secretary had prepared replies. Did he expect an unprepared answer to the question asked by the hon. member for Red Deer (Mr. Thompson), which would indicate a reopening of the post offices which are closed? I believe I gave a good answer to the question regarding sales tax. I feel that the answers prepared for me are of assistance.

What I am now going to tell the hon. member for Brandon-Souris is what the minister would have told him. He knows that the

minister is interested in the western area and will consider the economic situation of that part of the country. I shall not review the CTC decision because the hon. member knows there are procedures provided by law for this. However, I wish to tell him that I am informed that Midwest, a subsidiary of Transair, is continuing to provide service to Brandon using Viscount and Hawker-Siddeley 748 aircraft on a frequency and as a part of a route pattern that was established several years ago.

The CTC has authorized Midwest to provide another sort of service, one that might be identified as being specially designed to accommodate the needs of the community. It is anticipated that the new service will be instituted in a matter of weeks, upon the publication of new flight schedules. In the meantime, I am told that Midwest is doing its best to collaborate with representatives of the people of Brandon in making arrangements for the commencement of the new service.

Having regard to the new argument the hon. member has put forward tonight, I assure him the minister will take note of it. If we have more information than I have given tonight, it will be the minister's pleasure to provide the House with this information.

Mr. Thomas M. Bell (Saint John-Lancaster): Mr. Speaker, I understand that under Standing Order 40(4) I am entitled to ask a question, after the 30-minute period, about future House business. In future when we are considering these late-show questions, if it would not be asking too much of the government perhaps it would have in the House the parliamentary secretaries involved with the questions to be debated. I have no quarrel with the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Transport; it is not his problem. Surely these people can get up off their fannies and get here at night to answer these questions.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Loiselle: The hon. member should know that the Minister of Communications has no parliamentary secretary, and neither has the Minister of National Revenue.

Motion agreed to and the House adjourned at 10.27 p.m.