

Inquiries of the Ministry

MacGregor said the day after the announcement was made, and that he realizes there is a real basis for the uncertainty that exists in Winnipeg.

Mr. McIlraith: I will be very glad to consider that, Mr. Speaker.

[Later:]

On the orders of the day:

[Translation]

Mr. Guy Marcoux (Quebec-Montmorency): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of Transport. Could the minister tell the house whether Trans-Canada Air Lines is considering the possibility of increasing its fares to make up for the \$20 million deficit that will follow from retaining the maintenance base at the Winnipeg airport?

[Text]

Mr. McIlraith: No, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Knowles: Mr. Speaker, may I ask a supplementary question. Does the minister, by that answer, confirm the figure to which the hon. member referred?

Mr. McIlraith: No, Mr. Speaker.

[Later:]

REQUEST FOR EMPLOYMENT OF BILINGUAL PERSONNEL

On the orders of the day:

[Translation]

Mr. Real Caouette (Villeneuve): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Transport, and I want to make it one of personal privilege.

For the last two sessions I have been insisting that French be spoken on T.C.A. aircraft, especially by hostesses on duty aboard Vanguard or Viscounts.

I have to inform the minister that yesterday several members, including Your Honour, Mr. Speaker, and the hon. members for Iles-de-la-Madeleine (Mr. Sauve), Lapointe (Mr. Gregoire), Charlevoix (Mr. Belanger) and Shefford (Mr. Rondeau), boarded a plane at noon, at Montreal, on flight 351. We had but one hostess and she was not bilingual.

Will the minister tell me if he is making fun of us when we ask him for bilingual hostesses on T.C.A. aircraft? We are not asking that English be done away with but that French be spoken at least between Montreal and Ottawa.

[Text]

Hon. G. J. McIlraith (Minister of Transport): This whole matter is one which has received very close attention. I am sorry I do not have the details with me at this

moment, but a great deal of work has already been done in this connection. Efforts are being made to ensure that in all these aircraft attendants should be bilingual on routes where that is desirable or required. I am sure if the hon. member would pursue his question in the committee he would get a statement in detail as to what progress has been made in this field in the last three or four months.

TRANSPORTATION

SHORTAGE OF SLEEPER ACCOMMODATION ON TRAINS TO WEST

On the orders of the day:

Mr. J. E. Pascoe (Moose Jaw-Lake Centre): Mr. Speaker, I also have a question for the Minister of Transport. It is somewhat related to earlier questions regarding the shortage of railway box cars, but this time it is in connection with the apparent shortage of railway coaches. Does the minister know that there is no railway passenger sleeper accommodation available from December 18 to December 24 for travel to the west? I called for a reservation during that week, and I was told that there were three pages of names on the waiting list. Will the minister use his good offices to see that additional facilities are provided so that people may be able to make their Christmas holiday trips as planned?

Hon. G. J. McIlraith (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I shall be very glad to draw the hon. member's question to the attention of the railways.

AGRICULTURE

DISMISSAL OF P.F.A.A. SUPERVISOR FOR SWIFT CURRENT

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Jack McIntosh (Swift Current-Maple Creek): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct my question to the Minister of Agriculture, but in his absence I will direct it to the Acting Prime Minister. It arises out of a statement the Minister of Agriculture apparently made to a Liberal audience in Red Deer, Alberta, as reported in the *Edmonton Journal* of Monday, November 25, in which he said in part "Patronage, what is that? I select people according to merit." If it is government policy that personnel are selected on merit why was it, in view of this statement by the minister, that Mr. George Walker, the former P.F.A.A. supervisor for Swift Current, was discharged from the government service? Either this statement is false or the minister does not practise what he preaches.