

Senator Perrault: The program will be continued because if it is conducted under proper, safe auspices, it is a good conditioning sport, a good training sport and a good sport to inculcate discipline. Similarly, if football and other sports are not supervised properly, they can be dangerous as well. We intend to continue our efforts. In the recent Commonwealth Games held at Brisbane, Canada did quite well in boxing and there were no serious physical injuries to any of our participants.

Senator Doody: That we know of.

Hon. Nathan Nurgitz: Honourable senators, as a further supplementary question, could the minister tell us, with respect to professional boxing, whether he has considered the report of Mr. Justice Hewak of the Manitoba Court of Queen's Bench, who undertook an extensive study of boxing in that province as a result of a death that occurred seven or eight years ago?

Senator Perrault: All of these studies are being considered. At the present time we are receiving excellent help from the Province of Nova Scotia. One minister's office there is providing great assistance to the federal government and other provinces in attempting to develop a regulatory program which may be of real help to all of Canada. The ultimate plan, I believe, may be to have provincial access to a pool of computer-stored information about boxing participants, perhaps from all over North America. An information retrieval system of that kind would cost money, which is an important factor. The funding of such a program, of course, would be a major consideration.

Hon. Jean-Paul Deschatelets: May I ask a supplementary question? Is it the minister's intention to call a conference on this matter with heads of the boxing commissions that exist in four or five of the provinces?

Senator Perrault: We have had a preliminary meeting in Saskatoon, with constructive results, with the ministers responsible for fitness and amateur sport in the provinces. It was agreed at that meeting that we would try to take action in this area. As I said earlier, our main boxing facility for Canada is in Halifax, and because of Nova Scotia expertise in that field an official of the Province of Nova Scotia will be producing some proposals shortly. I think it would be of real benefit for the heads of the boxing commissions to meet. Senator Deschatelets has advanced an excellent idea.

Hon. Jacques Flynn (Leader of the Opposition): Well, it is from an expert.

AIR CANADA

SUGGESTED REDUCTION IN DOMESTIC FARES

Hon. Jack Marshall: Honourable senators, I have a question for the Leader of the Government in the Senate regarding big-hearted Air Canada. The advertisement in today's newspaper says that Air Canada, in consultation with the Canadian Government Office of Tourism, will issue cost-cutting coupons to Canadian travellers, which will allow them to save on hotel accommodation and car rentals. However, the advertisement

mentions nothing about cutting the cost of air fares to assist those who cannot afford to visit other parts of Canada.

• (2030)

As an example, many Newfoundlanders who work in Toronto and wish to return home for Christmas will have to pay over \$500 to fly to Gander. The return fare to Stephenville is about \$450.

Can the Government of Canada induce the big-hearted Air Canada president to cut air fares, which, in turn, will mean that more seats on planes will be filled and, thereby, the airline will make a profit instead of gouging the poorer people who can least afford to travel across their own country?

Hon. H. A. Olson (Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, it is very interesting to hear Senator Marshall's views on what Air Canada is outlining in some of its promotions. I wish neither to agree nor to disagree with him, although I think he will understand that there is far more involved in an advertising and business promotion scheme than some of the comparisons he has made.

Senator Marshall: That is a good answer.

Hon. Jacques Flynn (Leader of the Opposition): For once.

Senator Marshall: The advertisement states:

Whether you just want to visit the family back home without sleeping on a cot in the livingroom or you've always dreamed of doing Canada in style, now is the time.

Now is not the time because, even while we are talking about Canadian unity, people living in the far reaches of Canada cannot travel across the country unless there is a reduction in air fares. It would be more useful to lower the fares than to try to entice people to travel by offering them cheaper hotel accommodation.

THE ECONOMY

PRICE RESTRAINT IN FEDERAL PUBLIC SECTOR

Hon. H. A. Olson (Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, I have four delayed answers. The first is in response to a question asked by Senator Roblin on July 21 concerning price restraint in the federal public sector.

To my knowledge, those bodies that are subject to the six-and-five restraint program would include all organizations listed in the federal telephone directory plus crown corporations. This gives the widest possible scope to the policy which is aimed at restraining all prices established, directly or indirectly, under federal jurisdiction.

Honourable senators, I also have a response to a question asked by Senator Roblin a little later on the same day concerning the publicity the government intends to give to any cabinet decisions which approve deviations from the 6 per cent rule on account of exceptional circumstances.

I have made inquiries and have been informed that only in exceptional circumstances will an exemption to the administered prices six-and-five policy be considered. Arguments in support of exemptions of individual cases would be submitted