

Oral Questions

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, it is generally known that new regulations have been enacted regarding advance booking charters and published on January 8. I feel it is somewhat premature to draw conclusions on the implementation of the new policy because when preparing these regulations we consulted the Transport Commission and other authorities involved. As and when we became aware that the risks pointed out by the hon. member can really materialize, we shall certainly review the regulations.

[English]

Mr. Mazankowski: Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a supplementary question to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. In view of the fact there is some suggestion that the rates are being established on a non-competitive basis, could the minister advise the House whether his department has undertaken any steps to ensure that the charter air traveller will be getting a fair deal as a result of the new ABC regulations?

ADVANCE BOOKING CHARTER REGULATIONS—
ASSESSMENT OF IMPLICATIONS BY TRANSPORT
DEPARTMENT

Mr. J. P. Nowlan (Annapolis Valley): Mr. Speaker, my question is also directed to the Minister of Transport. Does he have someone in his department assessing the implications of these new air charter regulations so that he will be able to come into the House and say they are in the public interest and not in the interests of the carriers?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, that is precisely what the department is for and we are watching the situation very closely. We hope the new regulations will benefit the public in general and not a limited number of private interests.

[English]

Mr. Nowlan: In that assessment will the minister please take into consideration existing or intended fare schedules which discriminate against Canadians travelling to England in that an Englishman taking the same Canadian charter flight, travelling on the same route and with the same air crew, can come to Canada for \$100 less?

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): Yes, Mr. Speaker, I will take that into consideration.

• (1450)

[Translation]

Mr. Léonel Beaudoin (Richmond): Mr. Speaker . . .

Mr. Speaker: I apologize to the hon. member for Richmond, but the hon. member for Vegreville (Mr. Mazankowski) is rising on a point of order.

[English]

Mr. Mazankowski: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, I do not believe the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs was listening when I addressed my question to him, and I wonder if I might be permitted to repeat it?

[Mr. Mazankowski.]

Mr. Speaker: I will return to the hon. member shortly. I had noticed that he wanted to ask a supplementary.

[Translation]

ALLEGED REFUSAL OF MINISTER TO SUBMIT TO
AIRPORT SAFETY CHECK

Mr. Léonel Beaudoin (Richmond): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a supplementary question.

There is the question of rates as well as that of security. I would like to ask the Minister of Transport if he can tell the House whether the bill he has now introduced is important because, according to information obtained lately, he refused to submit to a security check as everybody else does in the interest of passengers?

Mr. Speaker: Order. The hon. member will admit that such a question is out of order.

[English]

ADVANCE BOOKING CHARTER REGULATIONS—
INVESTIGATION BY COMBINES BRANCH TO ASSURE
INTERESTS OF PUBLIC PROTECTED

Mr. Don Mazankowski (Vegreville): Mr. Speaker, I should like to repeat the question I directed earlier to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. Has his department undertaken to look into the new regulations and their impact on the air charter traveller with a view to ensuring that such persons will have a fair deal and that the interests of the public will be upheld?

Hon. Herb Gray (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I shall be happy to have this matter looked into to the extent that it comes under the jurisdiction of my department as distinct from that of the Canadian Transport Commission.

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COMMUNICATIONS

BELL CANADA—SUGGESTED HALTING OF GRANTS TO
SUBSIDIARIES AND REFUND OF AMOUNTS PAID

Mr. Terry Grier (Toronto-Lakeshore): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. In view of the fact that the Canadian taxpayer appears to be at least indirectly subsidizing research and development costs of the American Telephone and Telegraph Company, according to unchallenged evidence adduced before the Canadian Transport Commission recently, is the minister considering the halting of all grants to Bell subsidiaries, and is he considering asking for the refunding of all or part of the sum \$43 million paid to Bell subsidiaries since 1965-66?

Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, I do not accept the premise on which the question was asked so my answer is no.

Mr. Grier: In that case, Mr. Speaker, may I ask the minister whether he will consider investigating the allegations with a view to assuring the House that such funds have not been put to improper use?