Oral Questions

POST OFFICE

REQUEST FOR CENTENNIAL COMMEMORATIVE STAMPS FOR CANADIAN NATIONAL EXHIBITION

Mr. W. Kenneth Robinson (Toronto-Lakeshore): Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that the Canadian National Exhibition is the largest exhibition of its kind in the world, and in view of the fact that 1978 is the one hundredth anniversary of the Canadian National Exhibition, will the Postmaster General consider striking a centennial commemorative stamp for this event in 1978?

Hon. J.-J. Blais (Postmaster General): Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to receive the representations from the hon. gentleman. I have visited the CNE on a number of occasions. I find it is an excellent exhibition. We are considering the matter with all due seriousness.

AIR TRANSPORT

PROPOSED MERGER OF TRANSAIR AND PACIFIC WESTERN AIRLINES—CONSULTATIONS WITH MANITOBA PREMIER

Mr. Dan McKenzie (Winnipeg South Centre): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport and is in regard to the proposed merger of Transair and Pacific Western Airlines. This subject has been discussed in the Manitoba legislature in the last couple of days, and the premier has informed the legislature that he is having difficulty in contacting the minister to discuss this subject. I would like to ask the Minister of Transport if the premier contacted him yesterday or today, and can he bring us up to date on whether the merger will be proceeding or not?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I do not think the premier has been accurately reported because we have had no trouble getting in touch with one another. We did speak about the question, and I have nothing further to say about the question of ownership because any such announcement or indication would come from the directly interested parties.

POSSIBILITY TRANSAIR WOULD GIVE UP WINNIPEG-TORONTO ROUTE IN EVENT OF MERGER

Mr. Dan McKenzie (Winnipeg South Centre): Mr. Speaker, one of the problems arising out of the merger is that Transair would have to give up its Toronto-Winnipeg run in return for some of Air Canada's viable western routes. Is the minister involved in this, and will Transair have to give up these routes if the merger is completed?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I am aware of some discussions among airlines about the various positions they would take in the event of a change in ownership and the appropriate application before the Canadian Transform. [Mr. Poulin.]

port Commission be approved. Of course, any discussion they may have about their positions can only be that and cannot affect the fact that the applications do have to go before the Canadian Transport Commission. That applies not only to changes in ownership but changes in licences for routes as well.

[Translation]

COMMUNICATIONS

ALLEGED IRREGULARITIES OF CRTC PROCEDURE IN CONSIDERING LICENCE RENEWAL OF RADIO CENTRE-VILLE

Mr. René Matte (Champlain): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Communications.

Can the minister tell the House whether she is now acquainted with the file on Radio centre-ville, in Montreal, with regard to the litigation which opposes that community radio station to the CRTC; whether she is acquainted with the grievances that have been expressed, and also with the fact that, contrary to the notice sent to those who complained about the renewal of that station's licence, no one has been summoned to appear before the CRTC; and also, why the complainants have not been advised so that they can oppose the renewal of that community station's licence?

Hon. Jeanne Sauvé (Minister of Communications): Mr. Speaker, I know nothing about the grievances of Radio centreville. Those matters, as the hon. member is aware, are dealt with by the CRTC without any intervention on the part of the Minister of Communications. With regard to the question of the hon. member concerning the procedure followed by the CRTC, I must remind him that it has been challenged. The CRTC, which is authorized to set up its own procedures, decided that in the case of renewals, it would not invite new applications or new witnesses to oppose them. The courts finally agreed to the procedure adopted by the CRTC. As for the grievances, I shall look into the matter and try to give an answer to the hon, member.

[English]

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS

PROPOSAL THAT RAILS BE PURCHASED FROM SYDNEY STEEL PLANT TO PROVIDE EMPLOYMENT

Mr. Robert Muir (Cape Breton-The Sydneys): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport. Now that the minister has admitted that in the past Canadian National Railways has purchased rails from Colorado Iron in the United States, will the minister advise if the Canadian National Railways is considering, or would he suggest to them, placing further orders for rails with the Sydney Steel Corporation, and if not required by Canadian National Railways at the moment, they could be stockpiled for future use as has