

*Oral Questions*

With regard to the situation in Winnipeg—and it was raised by Hon. Members opposite; we did not raise it but it has to be clarified—the statement reads: “Regardless of the aircraft type which is eventually selected as a replacement for Air Canada B-727 fleet, the future of Air Canada maintenance base in Winnipeg is not in question”, says the airline’s Vice-President of Maintenance and Engineering”.

**Mr. Tobin:** Not “says the Government”.

**Mr. Mazankowski:** “Air Canada is very pleased with the work being done here. We fully intend to keep using these facilities whether we maintain the 727 replacement fleet or one of the other aircraft types we already own”. What could be more clear than that, Mr. Speaker?

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

## PRIME MINISTER’S POSITION

**Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister broke his promise to pensioners. He broke his promise to taxpayers. He broke his promise to those who wanted regional development—

**Some Hon. Members:** Question.

**Mr. Broadbent:** —and now he has done it with Air Canada.

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Broadbent:** Considering that recently a majority of Canadians have said that they like Air Canada in terms of its performance and that they want to maintain the present structure of Air Canada, how can the Prime Minister account for this broken promise, once again, other than the triumph of Conservative ideology over good, practical, common Canadian sense?

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, if the Leader of the NDP were interested in the well-being of Air Canada, its employees, and the people it serves, he would pay much more attention to the kinds of initiatives that are being put forward today, and a lot less to public opinion polls. He should stop relying on public opinion polls and rely on important matters.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Mulroney:** With regard to—

**Mr. Riis:** Call an election.

**Mr. Mulroney:** With regard to—

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Broadbent:** I can’t hear him, guys.

**Mr. McDermid:** Don’t forget Imperial Oil, Ed.

**Mr. Speaker:** The Right Hon. Prime Minister.

**Mr. Mulroney:** In deference to my hon. friend I would ask him to take the time to read the *compte rendu* of *The Gazette* of January 16, 1985, which says: “Prime Minister Brian Mulroney said Monday in Montreal that Air Canada is not for sale but did not rule out selling a minority interest. A group of Air Canada employees says it is interested in purchasing up to a 40 per cent share in the airline”.

This was said both in English and in French. It was said in the presence of a distinguished Canadian, as was mentioned, Louis Laberge.

My hon. friend will agree, I think, as he reviews the statement, that what has taken place today is perfectly consistent with what I said in January, 1985, and is very much—

**Some Hon. Members:** No, no.

**Mr. Mulroney:** The NDP may think the world stands still, but it does not and there are requirements for the future. We are going to meet this on behalf of all Canadians to make a stronger and a better Air Canada.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

## SALE OF SHARES

**Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa):** Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is for the Prime Minister. I tell the Prime Minister, as is usually the case, that I always check his immortal words before I come into Question Period. I saw his quote about perhaps selling a minority of shares, but I want to ask the Prime Minister why he is misleading the people of Canada today.

We have had it admitted by the Deputy Prime Minister earlier in the House in his statement, and in Question Period, that the intention of the Government is not simply to sell a minority of shares; the eventual goal is to sell all of Air Canada.

Since in 1985 the Prime Minister talked only about a minority share, why have they done a flip-flop and now committed themselves to selling out Air Canada completely? That is the issue.

**Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council):** Mr. Speaker, I know—

**Mr. Broadbent:** Oh, what happened? Why don’t you answer, Brian?

**Mr. Mazankowski:** The Leader of the New Democratic Party should cool down a little bit. He gets awfully angry when he asks questions.

**Mr. Broadbent:** Oh, yes, we like the truth in here.

**Mr. Riis:** We like the truth.

**Mr. Mazankowski:** It is hurting his image a little bit.