

AIR TRANSPORT

CANADIAN PACIFIC AIRLINES TAKEOVER—POSSIBLE LAY-OFFS

Mr. Les Benjamin (Regina West): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Employment and Immigration. His Department knows about planned lay-offs of thousands of employees due to the CP Air-PWA takeover. Since it is obvious that the employers have failed to notify their employees or their unions, will the Minister of Employment and Immigration notify these employees and their unions about what is in store for them? What plans does he have to take care of them?

Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman refers to some lay-offs which are going to occur as a result of the proposed amalgamation of CP and Pacific Western. There has been no notice given that any number approaching thousands will be affected. If they are, all the resources of the Government which are open to people who are laid off will certainly be made available to them, and the provisions of their collective agreements will certainly be put into effect.

We would urge the new company composed of Pacific Western and Canadian Pacific to treat generously and humanely those employees who may have to be laid off. However, there has been no indication that any number of the size to which the Hon. Member is referring are to be laid off.

REQUEST FOR LEGISLATIVE AMENDMENT DEALING WITH SUCCESSOR RIGHTS

Mr. Les Benjamin (Regina West): Mr. Speaker, since the Minister of Transport speaks for employment, fisheries, and a few other things, I will direct a question to him. *Freedom to Move*, deregulation started by the Liberals and being carried out by the Tories, promised not only more competition but more jobs.

Therefore, would he now agree, as a matter of government policy, either to move an amendment himself or accept an amendment to Bill C-18, such as was turned down this morning in committee, which would ensure that in cases of mergers, takeovers, and operating agreements, successor rights are dealt with and settled by the parties involved before a new licence to operate or a new certificate is issued?

Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I answered that question for the hon. gentleman yesterday in committee and am prepared to answer the question for the hon. gentleman again today in the House, although he is occupying the House with questions which have already been asked in committee.

The answer is that we have legislation under the jurisdiction of Labour Canada which applies to companies which operate under federal jurisdiction. That law will continue to apply to federal companies and there is, therefore, no need for any special provisions in the *Freedom to Move* legislation for that purpose. It is working.

Oral Questions

HARBOURFRONT

MORATORIUM ON TORONTO WATERFRONT CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

Mr. Alan Redway (York East): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Public Works and relates to the Harbourfront property in Metro Toronto. Due to the great concerns of residents of the area and the people of Metropolitan Toronto in general relating to the development and planning process of the City of Toronto, the residents welcomed the Minister's announcement of a freeze and a review of the site. However, they would like to know from the Minister exactly what has been frozen.

Has all of the development been frozen or only part of it? How does the Minister intend to enforce that freeze since at the moment construction is going on without the benefit of building permits? Will the Minister allow public input of residents into the review process?

Hon. Stewart McInnes (Minister of Public Works): Mr. Speaker, a review of the objectives of the Harbourfront corporation is now under way. In the interim, a moratorium has been imposed on all development. Clarification on which particular projects have been affected will be given within the next 30 days.

One of the ingredients of the review is to ensure that there is adequate public representation, the opportunity for citizens and appropriate groups to give their views. The mechanics have not yet been crystallized but we will issue a statement in that regard.

* * *

AGRICULTURE

ANNOUNCED CLOSURE OF MANITOBA SUGAR COMPANY—EFFECT ON SUGAR-BEET PRODUCERS

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Winnipeg—Fort Garry): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister responsible for the Wheat Board. As the Minister knows, on Friday the Manitoba Sugar Company announced the closing of its plant which, if carried through, will mean the end of the sugar-beet industry in the Province of Manitoba and will affect 500 or 600 jobs in that province alone.

● (1450)

The Manitoba Minister of Agriculture said in the Legislature yesterday that there had been no new discussions between the federal and provincial Governments since the announcement, and yesterday I asked the Deputy Prime Minister whether he would undertake to talk with that Minister to see if negotiations could be resumed before the decision was carried out.

Has the Minister of State for the Canadian Wheat Board been in touch with his provincial counterpart? Is there an