

Inquiries of the Ministry

effort has been made to work out an arrangement which will be equitable to everyone involved and which will not mean a loss of employment to the people presently engaged in the industry, and which hopefully, in the longer run at least, will provide additional employment for people in those basic trades which will have to support the growing aircraft industry of the future. If my hon. friend wishes to have details of the negotiations, these I could ask for; I do not have them available at the present time. But every effort has been made to try to do justice to the situation, particularly to the men, and to give them their choice as to whether they wish to remain with Air Canada and exercise their rights under the present agreement, or to go with the new company.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In view of the assurances the minister gave earlier, that there would be no loss of work or reduction in wages, will he at some early opportunity provide the details to which he has referred?

Mr. Hellyer: I will make an effort to do that, Mr. Speaker. It may take a few days. I understand there have been some hitches in the negotiations. But at an early, appropriate occasion I will be glad to do that.

Mr. Ed. Schreyer (Selkirk): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I should like to ask the Minister of Transport whether, in view of the fact that at the time of the Thompson inquiry into the future of the Air Canada base at Winnipeg officials of Air Canada gave testimony that the Air Canada overhaul base at Dorval was being under-utilized, and in view of the recent order for return in this house showing that over \$20 million has now been allocated for the expansion of this so-called under-utilized base, will the minister not agree with the officials of Air Canada—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member is presenting an argument. This is debate, not a question.

INDUSTRY**DEVCO—COMPULSORY RETIREMENT OF MINERS**

Mr. Donald MacInnis (Cape Breton-East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, yesterday the hon. member for Northumberland-Durham (Mr. Honey), in answering a question by the hon. member for York South (Mr. Lewis), undertook to answer today a question about the

early retirement of Devco miners. I wonder whether he has that answer available.

[*Translation*]

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for York South asked yesterday whether Devco had passed a by-law providing for pre-retirement leave and whether such by-law had been approved by the Treasury Board.

Of course, Devco has passed a by-law providing for such leave and I believe the Treasury Board will give its approval tomorrow.

[*English*]

Mr. MacInnis: Mr. Speaker, I would ask the minister a further question because apparently something is wrong with my hearing equipment and the translation is not coming through too well. Can the minister state definitely if and when Treasury Board will give the approval that is required under section 18 of the early retirement plan?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The minister has just given the reply.

[*Later:*]

Mr. MacInnis: Mr. Speaker, I have a further supplementary question for the minister. In view of the fact that the Treasury Board is to approve this legislation tomorrow, will it be possible for Devco to give the miners the required month's notice, since the retirement plan will not be legal until it is approved by Treasury Board?

[*Translation*]

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): Mr. Speaker, since this pre-retirement leave plan has been approved by the cabinet, even if tomorrow the Treasury Board were to decide tomorrow not to approve it, it would still not be too late to cancel the notices sent to the workers.

[*English*]

Mr. MacInnis: Mr. Speaker, I wish to rise on a point of order. May I point out that the minister seemed to be enjoying the fact that I could not understand what he was saying, but the fact is that my translation equipment is not working.

An hon. Member: Try to learn French.

Mr. MacInnis: I have no intention of doing so. I did not understand the minister because, as I indicated, my translation equipment is not working.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.