

Oral Questions

whole question of how inflation has affected capital gains and investment potential? It would seem to me that would be a matter of economic development.

Hon. Donald J. Johnston (Minister of State for Economic Development and Minister of State for Science and Technology): Madam Speaker, obviously this is a question which should be directed to the Minister of Finance. Perhaps the Minister of State for Finance would like to comment on it. All I can say is that I thought the Hon. Member would certainly welcome that initiative. Bear in mind that it grew out of a great deal of public discussion, and consideration by prominent members of the community most concerned with the issue of capital gains. I would hope he would applaud this approach to the development of policy.

POSITION OF INVESTORS IN SMALL BUSINESSES

Mr. Don Blenkarn (Mississauga South): Madam Speaker, I am not criticizing the policy at all. I was wondering if the Minister felt the same type of thing should be done for other people who invest in small business which are not listed on the stock exchange and cannot take advantage of the scheme. He is Minister of State for Economic Development. Why would he not recommend to his Cabinet colleagues that some kind of equity be available to those who would create new jobs and businesses rather than just for the people who are fortunate enough to have their stocks listed, or can have them listed?

Hon. Donald J. Johnston (Minister of State for Economic Development and Minister of State for Science and Technology): Madam Speaker, the representations made between Ministers are of course confidential. But I can assure you that the Minister of Finance was very attentive, not only to representations from his colleagues but from members of the business community, the labour movement and various construction associations and other trade groups right across the country when he was in the course of preparing his budget. I think Hon. Members would have to recognize that probably at no time in the history of budget preparation has there been such extensive representations. I am sure the Hon. Member would have had his own opportunities to make representations to the Minister of Finance had he elected to do so. Now, I do not know whether he has or has not, but I have made my representations.

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AIR TRANSPORT

PACIFIC WESTERN AIRLINES—SERVICE TO WESTERN MANITOBA

Mr. Jack Murta (Lisgar): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Transport. Since the Pacific Western Airlines licence to service Brandon, Manitoba, and consequently western Manitoba, is being looked at at the present time by the CTC, and since that service has been excellent and most, if not all, the people in western Manitoba are very happy with it, I am wondering whether or not the

Minister could instruct the CTC to give the PWA application very positive consideration and also clear up the uncertainties surrounding this vital service at the present time.

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Transport): Madam Speaker, there are so many of these decisions that I can hardly keep track of all of them, but I stick my neck out. I think the CTC has already accepted the extension.

An Hon. Member: They have.

Mr. Pepin: They have? To say something new, I think the Department is also making arrangements to make some improvements to the airport at Brandon.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF DECISION

Mr. Jack Murta (Lisgar): Madam Speaker, I was not exactly clear on the Minister's answer. If they have made their decision and it is positive, fine. If a decision has not been made, would the Minister ensure that a decision is made as soon as possible? Will it or can it be announced so that the public will know about it? Certainly the public does not know at this point in time. Could he also ensure, and this is a plea from myself, that the decision is in favour of PWA?

● (1450)

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Transport): Madam Speaker, I am having a problem, because my hon. friend on the other side, exceptionally, seems to be more aware of the decision than I am. I knew the decision had been made, but I was not sure that it had been announced, which is always the problem when one is a Minister. It is one of those things.

On the subject, it was extended because the service has been very good, and it has been well used. Changes or improvements to the airport had not yet been made, in waiting for the decision of the CTC to extend the licence. Now that this has been made, the expenditures, and I cannot remember how many dollars are involved, will be made. I will communicate the full information to my friend as soon as possible.

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CROWN CORPORATIONS

INQUIRY RESPECTING CONTRIBUTIONS TO FOREIGN POLITICIANS

Mr. Ian Deans (Hamilton Mountain): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. Does the Prime Minister feel that it is appropriate for Crown corporations or their agents to offer campaign contributions to politicians or aspiring politicians in other parts of the world, with whom they are attempting to do business?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Madam Speaker, I cannot answer that question. I do not know what the Hon. Member is talking about. There may be some circumstances where it is appropriate and others where it is not appropriate.