

*Oral Questions*

know whether the money will be provided and to clear up the confusion on the other matters raised earlier by the minister?

**Mr. Lang:** Mr. Speaker, the hon. member is confused; I do not think the mayor is: he will have received a message from me along the lines of the answer I just gave. The matter was considered fully in cabinet and in appropriate committees several times because of the desire to review all factors which might lead to special consideration of additional funds for Winnipeg. In the end, it was concluded that only urban transportation assistance program funds would be available from federal sources. That has been relayed to the city.

● (1142)

With regard to local environmental matters and the Neighbourhood Improvement Program, obviously they may be very important considerations, but the view I took in dealing with the mayor was that these are essentially local issues to be decided by the province and the city, and there should be no federal involvement in those questions.

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**CANADIAN TRANSPORT COMMISSION****OFFICIALS RECEIVING CP AIR PASSES FOR VACATIONS**

**Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Transport. Can he confirm that officials of the Canadian Transport Commission have requested, and received, special vacation airline passes from CP Air for themselves and their families; and, if so, does he consider that there is, in fact, a serious conflict of interest on the part of CTC officials who regulate air transportation and air routes for which the airline carriers are competing?

**Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, I do not have that information. Obviously, it would have to be obtained before I could comment on it and the second part of the question.

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**POST OFFICE****OFFICIALS RECEIVING AIRLINE PASSES FOR VACATIONS**

**Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North):** Mr. Speaker, I hope the minister will look into the question and report to the House.

I should like to direct a supplementary question to the Postmaster General, if I may. Is he aware, or will he inquire, whether officials of his department have received airline passes for vacation trips; and, if so, could he inform the House whether the Prime Minister's guidelines of December 20, 1976, have been broken and what action he would plan to take, since the Post Office awards mail delivery contracts to different airlines which are quite profitable to them?

[Mr. McKenzie.]

**Hon. J. Gilles Lamontagne (Postmaster General):** Mr. Speaker, I am not aware that any passes have been given to any of the staff of the Post Office, and as for myself, I think the guidelines of the Prime Minister were made very clear in public the other day. This must be according to our own consciences and it is up to us to decide whether we accept them or not.

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**AIR CANADA****REQUEST THAT CORPORATION MOVE LONDON, ENGLAND, OPERATIONS FROM HEATHROW TO GATWICK AIRPORT**

**Mr. Don Mazankowski (Vegreville):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Transport and arises from a decision by the government of the United Kingdom to request Air Canada to move its London operations from Heathrow to Gatwick airport.

Since this move would have a serious economic impact on the operations of the airline, would impose payload restrictions, have a serious effect on its competitive position with other airlines, notwithstanding the fact that Air Canada has been located at Heathrow for some 32 years, and would have a disruptive effect on investment and, indeed, on the people who work there, will the minister indicate what action has been taken on the part of the government and whether an official Canadian government protest has been filed with the government of the United Kingdom in connection with this matter?

**Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, we have made our position very clear to the United Kingdom government on this question, and I did so personally at a meeting with Mr. Dell when he was here a few months ago. It was also conveyed to the government, through the airline, previously in direct discussions, as well as by our High Commissioner in London. We are pressing many of the points to which the hon. member referred, as well as some other significant ones in favour of the case Air Canada can make in support of staying at Heathrow.

**Mr. Mazankowski:** Mr. Speaker, I would ask the minister whether he has been able to determine why Air Canada was singled out as a candidate for the move from Heathrow to Gatwick? Does it have anything to do with the intentions of British Airways to apply for routes into western Canada, or is it, as has been reported, that Canada has become the easiest target for such a move? Has he been able to determine the reasons that lie behind this decision?

**Mr. Lang:** Mr. Speaker, the essential problem facing the United Kingdom in this regard, with which I do have sympathy, relates to the overcrowding which is occurring and will occur at Heathrow, necessitating the removal of some of the facilities of airlines. That, obviously, is the background reason for some airlines having been moved.

Obviously, I am not going to try to state the United Kingdom's analysis which it would put forward as justifying the