

*Oral Questions***AIRPORTS**

WINNIPEG INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT—RELOCATION OF RUNWAYS

Mr. Jack Murta (Lisgar): Madam Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Transport. Last year a study entitled "The Winnipeg Area Airport System Study" was completed by the Department of Transport. It indicated that two of the existing runways at Winnipeg International Airport would be moved as part of a key expansion program for the whole aerospace program in Manitoba. That of course, will fit in with the location of the \$14 million hangar that is going to be established by PWA and some 50 additional jobs as the start of an expanded role for Manitoba's aerospace industry. Will the minister indicate whether his department has given the go ahead for the movement of these runways so that this aspect of the Manitoba aerospace industry can go ahead and, hopefully, we in Manitoba can have more jobs in the aerospace industry?

● (1450)

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Transport): Yes, Madam Speaker. I am glad the hon. member prefaced his question the way he did, because there is a master plan for the Winnipeg airport. It is the result of ample consultations with the public. Everyone was invited to come and make his case. In this master plan, an area is reserved for hangars. The PWA company has not found that location to be convenient to its own use. For a number of months the discussions have been going on between my officials and Mr. Eyton. I am a bit hesitant because I have received conflicting information. I have a confirmation from the airline that no agreement has been reached and consequently they will delay construction of the hangar. However, I have an indication from the government of Manitoba that PWA will now agree to build the hangar on the west side. If my friend will be patient I will attempt to find out who is right and who is wrong in this matter, and report to him urgently.

EXPANSION OF AEROSPACE INDUSTRY IN MANITOBA

Mr. Jack Murta (Lisgar): I think the Minister of Transport will probably find in his investigation that the position the Manitoba government has taken is closest to being the correct position. He should keep uppermost in his mind the fact that it is more than a question of moving runways and a question of noise which was talked about in the report. What is involved at the present time is an expansion of the aerospace industry in the province of Manitoba. That is the key. That is the area the minister and his department should zero in on and everything should be done to facilitate that area.

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Transport): Madam Speaker, we have already zeroed in on that a number of times with great sympathy and eagerness in order to ensure that the economic advantage goes to Winnipeg and Manitoba. At the same time, you cannot simply for the sake of that specific project, however important it appears, say that the master plan

goes out the window, and kill the efforts which have been made over a period of time to determine the best way in which the Winnipeg airport should be developed. It is a balance between advantages and disadvantages, as we so often find in life.

* * *

INCOME TAX

TAX AUDIT OF NEWFOUNDLAND FISHERMEN—TELEGRAM SENT BY UNION

Hon. John C. Crosbie (St. John's West): My question is for the Minister of National Revenue. The minister knows that the fishery in Newfoundland to date this year is not very favourable. On June 23, in connection with tax assessments on fishermen, he told me that 1,457 fishermen in Newfoundland had received 50 per cent garnishees of all their earnings. He said that 50 per cent had been contacted in order to enter into reasonable arrangements for payment. The minister received a telegram from the Newfoundland Fishermen, Food and Allied Workers Union on Friday last advising him that the department is still automatically requiring a 50 per cent payment of all fishermen's earnings, despite their repeated representations and hardship cases. They say they are unable to get any favourable reaction from National Revenue. Will the minister advise what action has been taken by his department in view of this telegram from the union, which represents nearly all of the Newfoundland inshore fishermen?

Hon. William Rompkey (Minister of National Revenue): Madam Speaker, I have received a representation from the Newfoundland federation of fishermen. I and my officials will be meeting with the union tomorrow morning to go into the matter in some depth and to see what exactly is the problem. I repeat that we are not firm at all on the 50 per cent garnishee. We have come to arrangements with individual fishermen when it has been brought to our attention. We want to treat each individual case as a separate case, and treat each one on its merits. There is no across the board policy that everyone must pay a 50 per cent garnishee. I will be meeting with the union tomorrow morning, and hopefully as a result of that we can clarify these difficulties.

MEASURES TO ASSIST INDIVIDUALS

Hon. John C. Crosbie (St. John's West): Madam Speaker, the government is unable to deliver the mail but it certainly appears determined to collect its taxes. In view of the remarks by the minister earlier today that he is going to take steps to see that small business and the like affected by the postal strike will not have to make their tax payments on time and pay the interest penalties as a result of that,—I presume that is what he is arranging, and the interest is at least 12 to 14 per cent if you are not paying your taxes—will the minister let the House know tomorrow or the next day what steps he has taken to stop this very severe treatment of taking over 50 per cent of the gross earnings of the fishermen in Newfoundland who