

Air Lines Counsel Battle Over Alleged TCA Policy

Canadian Press Staff Writer OTTAWA (CP)—Opposing counsel Tuesday exchanged sharp words over statements claimed by Trans-Canada Air Lines officials to imply that the government airline hasn't always been frank with parliamentary committees.

The brief outburst occurred during final argument before the Air Transport Board on an application by Canadian Pacific Air Lines for transcontinental passenger routes in competition with TCA. The bid is being supported by Pacific Western Airlines, a west coast regional carrier.

John B. Hamilton, PWA counsel and Progressive Conservative member of Parliament for York West, said that as a result of this inquiry some other measure of efficiency is going to be required by TCA than has been in the past.

He said he does not suggest TCA misrepresented its position before parliamentary committees investigating its operations but there had been omission of evidence and that evidence would have to be available to committees in future.

Mr. Hamilton referred to various comparisons of TCA's operations with United States airlines which both CPA and PWA counsel argued showed TCA as a high-cost inefficient airline.

This brought a protest almost immediately from TCA counsel J. G. Edison of Toronto who began TCA's final argument in the case at the conclusion of Mr. Hamilton's remarks.

He charged Mr. Hamilton with overstepping his position as PWA counsel and allowing his views as a member of Parliament to creep in.

Mr. Hamilton objected to these statements, adding that he had not said that any change in the examination of TCA's performance would come about through his personal efforts.

Mr. Edison also charged that Mr. Hamilton suggested TCA had failed to give evidence requested of it. But he added that if there was any information that had not yet come out Mr. Hamilton was at fault for failing to bring it out in cross-examination of witnesses.

Before Mr. Hamilton began his argument, CPA counsel Ian Sinclair of Winnipeg and Jay Gould of Vancouver wound up the final argument of their case begun Monday.

They argued that CPA has the experience, equipment, personnel and financial backing to provide TCA with controlled competition recommended in the report to the government of Professor Stephen Wheatcroft after a study of the problem.

11 Weaving Plants Closed In Canada In Last 6 Years

By ARCH MacKENZIE Canadian Press Staff Writer OTTAWA (CP)—The tariff board was told Tuesday that world surpluses of man-made fibre textiles since 1952—mainly American—have cut Canadian output by 25 per cent and forced the closing of 11 weaving plants.

Canada's share of the domestic man-made fibre fabric market has shrunk from 87.2 per cent in 1951 to 68.7 per cent last year and the figure for the first six months of this year is 65 per cent, the industry claimed.

Canada's 1957 production was listed as 124,208,000 linear yards, the Primary Textiles Institute said in a brief to the tariff board at resumed hearings into the field of silk and man-made fibres.

The board hopes before Christmas to complete two other hearings. One concerns products, mainly dresses, and the other cord used in auto tires.

They are part of a series begun last year on cotton, wool and other materials with a view to tariff rate revision.

Tuesday's brief suggested a streamlining of existing tariffs on man-made fibre fabrics with no substantial rate increase. A main point was switching duty calculation to a linear-yard basis for some lighter-weight fabrics rather than using the existing pound basis.

This would involve rate increases of five to 10 per cent. Japanese and British interests among others are to intervene before the hearing is concluded.

PRODUCER HARD HIT

World over-supply and subsequent price cuts hit the Canadian producer hard, the textiles institute said Tuesday. It expressed confidence its members could meet all "reasonable" trade requirements despite reduced tariff protection in recent years.

But it would require "prompt" action to control imports from low-wage areas—Japan and Italy—and effective implementation of Canada's new anti-dumping legislation.

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