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TRANSPORT

Passenger Protect Program—Identity Screening Regulations for Young Persons

Question by:

The Honourable Claudette Tardif

Wednesday, June 20, 2007

THE SENATE

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[*Translation*]

TRANSPORT

PASSENGER PROTECT PROGRAM—IDENTITY SCREENING REGULATIONS FOR YOUNG PERSONS

Hon. Claudette Tardif (Deputy Leader of the Opposition): Honourable senators, my question is for the Leader of the Government in the Senate. In a Transport Canada notice published in today's *The Globe and Mail*, we learn that, and I quote:

The . . . new *Identity Screening Regulations* for air travel are now in effect.

In this announcement, under the title "For all persons who appear to be 12 years of age or older", we learn that, from now on, anyone who appears to be 12 years old or older must have government-issued photo ID, or two pieces of ID without photos, in order to board any commercial flight in Canada.

• (1425)

I have a friend in Ottawa who is separated, who has an 11-year-old son going to visit his father this summer in Alberta. Her son is already five feet, five inches tall and looks more like he is at least 15 years old, even though he is really only 11.

Can the Leader of the Government in the Senate please explain the aim of this initiative and describe the criteria that will be used to determine what a 12-year-old child looks like and how a 12 year old can obtain federal government ID?

[*English*]

Hon. Marjory LeBreton (Leader of the Government and Secretary of State (Seniors)): Honourable senators, people should not always believe everything they read in *The Globe and Mail*.

Senator Tardif: I am referring to an announcement.

Senator LeBreton: Until September 18, travellers in Canada who are between the ages of 12 and 17 will require only one piece of government-issued identification, with or without a photo, before boarding an aircraft instead of one piece of government-issued photo ID or two pieces of government-based identification. In fact, an individual between the ages of 12 and 17 needs one piece of identification to board the aircraft.

I take the honourable senator's point that some children appear to be between those ages but in fact are actually younger. However, the fact is that these young Canadians will only require one piece of identification.