

Supply

[English]

In terms of airport security, Canada is second to none.

Mr. Forrestall: That is true.

Mr. Ouellet: A few days later, journalists showed very clearly that the security at airports, one targeted by the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) or the Minister of Transport (Mr. Mazankowski), is a farce and there is, in fact, no security.

[Translation]

Mr. de la Grange is being prosecuted because he embarrassed the Government. The flight attendant has been suspended because she dared to tell publicly to an Air Canada passenger what thousands of Canadians already know, that this Government is incompetent and rotten. Because she had the courage to say publicly what many people think, she has been suspended.

An Hon. Member: She must be a Liberal!

Mr. Ouellet: Third, how could an important lawyer of the Conservative Party in Ottawa threaten Mr. André Vertis who manages a store on the market and who was selling what he called Tory sandwiches? As we know, Mr. Vertis was selling the "Sinc Stevens Sandwich".

Mr. Valcourt: You must have eaten a lot of them.

Mr. Ouellet: When this sandwich, which contained "turkey, baloney and hot air", was publicized, some Conservatives felt offended and threatened this store operator on the market by telling him that there would be retaliatory action against himself and his business if he continued to embarrass the Government. Such intimidation was totally unacceptable. Indeed, here is what I read about it in the newspaper *The Citizen*:

[English]

I must express my dismay with Sinclair Stevens and Conservative lawyer Stuart Hendin not only for Mr. Stevens' recent embarrassing resignation but also with the Tories' apparent lack of humour. I was shocked to learn from the article "Tories turn up heat on political sandwiches" (May 17), that Mr. Hendin imposed threats against Tibor and André Vertis, the co-owners of the Budapest Delicatessen, unless they removed their now-infamous "Sink Sinc Sandwich Special."

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, that is a third event which, together with the others, shows clearly the truly totalitarian attitude of these Conservatives who dislike criticisms.

Finally, I will mention the firing of Mr. Robert Price, this civil servant who had the courage to make public a document showing clearly that this Conservative Government was lying concerning the Indians of this country.

Mr. Valcourt: He had broken the law.

Mr. Ouellet: Well, because he had the courage to make public a document to help Indian and Inuit groups in this country, the Government has fired him. If the former Liberal

Government had fired all those who had deliberately leaked secret documents, there would have been hundreds of cases such as this.

But I must say, Mr. Speaker, that the Liberal Party is a party of tolerance and, at the time it was in Government, it never used strong armed tactics to gag civil servants and stop them from acting according to their conscience. I find, therefore, the Toni Corrado incident regrettable, and I cannot help linking it to a whole series of provocative actions taken by this Government to muzzle its civil servants, to stop them from telling the truth to the Canadian public, because it is anxious to hide its bad decisions and policies from the Canadian public.

• (1740)

[English]

Mr. Forrestall: Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member for Papineau (Mr. Ouellet) would not want to leave the Chamber without correcting one or two of the observations which he just made. He suggested that the Minister should send a second note to Air Canada. The fact is that the Minister did not send a first note so he cannot send a second note.

I wish the Hon. Member for Papineau would take note that the attendant in question is not suspended. She is at work. There is an appeal process taking place. I think it is incumbent upon us, as the former Minister mentioned in his remarks, to wait until we know what the facts are before we make judgments.

[Translation]

Mr. Ouellet: Because of the interpretation system, Mr. Speaker, perhaps the Parliamentary Secretary did not quite understand my remarks. I did not say there had been a second note, what I did say was that I hoped the Minister would send a note to Air Canada officials and ask them to forget the whole thing. The office of the Minister sent a first note, the correspondence section of the office of the Minister sent the letter along with an explanatory note. So a first note was sent to Air Canada. Now I would like a second note to be sent. I am not saying that one was sent, but I hope there will be a second note in which Air Canada will be told to forget this deplorable incident.

As to whether the flight attendant was suspended or not, the fact is that the decision was made to suspend her for 30 days without pay. The appeal proceedings will eventually confirm the suspension or lead to the decision which we hope for, namely that the suspension will be cancelled. But it would be a lot better and a lot more courageous on the part of the Minister—whether he likes it or not, he is the cause of this problem—if he would simply tell Air Canada: Forget the incident, drop this review process, cancel the suspension.

Mrs. Bourgault: Mr. Speaker, I may remind the Hon. Member for Papineau (Mr. Ouellet) that not the Government but the Town of Mirabel is suing Mr. de la Grange. That is quite different.