

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Friday, June 13, 1986

The House met at 11 a.m.

STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S.O. 21

[Translation]

AEROSPACE INDUSTRY

MAINTENANCE OF CF-18 AIRCRAFT—AWARDING OF CONTRACT—QUEBEC

Hon. André Ouellet (Papineau): Mr. Speaker, CF-18 aircraft maintenance will soon have to be provided by a Canadian company. Canadair, CAE and North West Industries have established a consortium to get this contract.

Unlike this Government, the Liberal Party is firmly committed to support Quebec's aerospace industry.

As a leader in research and development as well as in subcontracting, Canadair strengthens, supports and justifies the presence of other aerospace industries in Quebec.

Therefore, we Liberal Members of Quebec urge the Conservative Government to sustain the growth of the provincial aerospace industry when making the final decision to award the contract, and particularly to protect the jobs of all Canadair employees whose skill has been amply demonstrated.

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[English]

AIRPORTS

IMPROVEMENTS TO MANICOUAGAN RIDING AIRPORTS

Mr. John Parry (Kenora—Rainy River): Mr. Speaker, airports in the Prime Minister's (Mr. Mulroney) riding of Manicouagan are being equipped with facilities and million-dollar instrument landing systems unheard of at airports with 10 times the air traffic. Seven small airports in Manicouagan are in line for over \$19 million in grants over the next two years. Gravel-strip runways in areas with little or no traffic are being paved in other Conservative ridings.

We are aware of the Prime Minister's love of Hercules aircraft and video cameras, but it appears he is getting carried even further away with major airport upgrading projects in his riding. It is passing strange that the Minister of Transport (Mr. Mazankowski) is heard in some ridings to say that his Department is eager to fund local airport projects. Yet where

there are needs in sizeable communities he often writes that he cannot help them at the present time due to financial restraints.

If the Prime Minister feels so insecure in his riding that he has to make these large expenditures, let him at least spend these patronage dollars on something that his own people can use and appreciate.

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• (1105)

TOURISM

INCREASE IN NUMBER OF TOURISTS FROM UNITED STATES

Mr. Bob Brisco (Kootenay West): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that the Government has recognized the tourism potential inherent in the currency differential between the Canadian and U.S. dollars. I have noted that in most of the Government's tourism advertising and promotion in the United States, the U.S. dollar premium is a prominent selling feature. If American tourists are treated fairly and given good value for their money in Canada, we stand a much better chance of increasing our share of one of the most lucrative tourism markets in the world.

In the summer of 1985 a survey showed that only one in 50 Americans thought of Canada as a vacation destination. However, statistics are showing a 16 per cent increase in U.S. travel to Canada so far this year. This is in large part due to better advertising by the tourism Ministry and the promotion of a fair exchange rate.

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[Translation]

TRADE

IMPORTANCE OF RELATIONS WITH UNITED STATES

Mr. Gabriel Fontaine (Lévis): Today, Mr. Speaker, I should like to draw the attention of the House to the importance of trade relations between Canada and the United States. The United States is the main trade partner of Canada, and vice versa.

Canada-U.S. trade exchanges topped \$165 billion in 1984, by far the world's most important bilateral trade relations.