

Mr. Macquarrie: I mean, of course, Eastern Provincial Airways. If I may say so, Mr. Speaker, in referring to common carriers I am getting carried away. It is an Eastern Provincial Airways service from Halifax to Havana that I foresee. This kind of contact can only strengthen relations between our two countries irrespective of forms of government.

• (1420)

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Macquarrie: Mr. Speaker, this is an important matter and it is this kind of organizing in the development of such agreements that a country like Canada and this assembly of serious parliamentarians here gathered should welcome. I do welcome this agreement and I commend the minister for the success attending his efforts. I expect good things to follow in the development of commercial and economic ties between our two countries.

Mr. Andrew Brewin (Greenwood): Mr. Speaker, I have been instructed by my colleagues not to attempt to emulate the hon. member for Hillsborough (Mr. Macquarrie). I want to say, however, that I too am very happy with the announcement made by the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Sharp).

There are two aspects that I welcome particularly. First, the agreement represents international action to deal with the problem of hijacking which has caused grave concern and is typical of the violence of our age. It is high time that governments dealt with the problem and I am very happy that the governments of Canada, Cuba and the United States have agreed to at least start to deal with it. The second aspect that pleases me is that this is the first treaty Canada has had with the Republic of Cuba since the revolution. I believe it is a symbol of the real opportunities that exist for the development of friendly and mutually beneficial relations with the Republic of Cuba.

I travelled to Cuba recently with the hon. member for Hillsborough and the hon. member for Cochrane (Mr. Stewart). We were received with great hospitality and were also shown admirable opportunities for the mutually beneficial expansion of trade and relations with that country. I think this present treaty will be a milestone on the road to closer collaboration. For that reason I warmly welcome it.

[Translation]

Mr. Gérard Laprise (Abitibi): Mr. Speaker, we welcome the news that an agreement has been signed between the Canadian government and that of Cuba with regard to air and sea hijackings.

We had reached the point where we dreaded to see planes leave, fearing they might not reach their destination. Something had to be done to prevent acts of violence. Cuba was probably one of the busiest countries in that regard as it often welcomed the unwanted as a result of planes having been hijacked.

I feel the minister deserves our congratulations for having concluded that agreement and thereby given air travellers more security in their travels.

Atlantic Region Economic Expansion

To my mind, that agreement between those two governments will encourage negotiations with other governments.

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[English]

REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION

INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAMS FOR ATLANTIC REGION—
REQUEST FOR UNANIMOUS CONSENT TO MOVE MOTION

Mr. J. Robert Howie (York-Sunbury): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a matter of urgent and pressing necessity pursuant to Standing Order 43. As the acute and urgent need for a massive investment in infrastructure programs in Atlantic Canada has been recently demonstrated by the inability of the port of Saint John, New Brunswick, to hold the Volkswagen contract, the inability of Halifax to expand industrially because of an inadequate water supply system, and the failure to harness the tides of Fundy for power development, I would move, seconded by the right hon. member for Prince Albert (Mr. Diefenbaker):

That the question of massive infrastructure programs be referred to the Standing Committee on Regional Economic Expansion for detailed study and recommendations.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for York-Sunbury has proposed for the consideration of the House a motion under the terms of Standing Order 43 requiring unanimous consent. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member will have heard, as did the Chair, that there is not unanimous consent and the motion cannot be put at this time.

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[Translation]

MANPOWER

APPROVAL OF LOCAL INITIATIVES PROJECTS—REQUEST
FOR UNANIMOUS CONSENT TO MOVE MOTION

Mr. Jean-Marie Boisvert (Drummond): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 43, I ask for the unanimous consent of the House to discuss a matter of urgent necessity, specifically undue political influences concerning the Local Initiatives Program, so that our fellow citizens be not victims of injustice in the criteria for the acceptance or rejection of their projects.

Consequently, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Compton (Mr. Latulippe):

That the House request the Minister of Manpower and Immigration who is responsible for the politicized Local Initiatives Program, to make a statement on that matter and that he reassure the House about the honest administration of the said program, and