S.O. 21

AIR TRANSPORT

LACK OF COMPETITION IN WINNIPEG

Among those taking this view in the Progressive Conservative Party are, first of all, the Conservative Members from Manitoba, and especially the Member for Winnipeg-Assiniboine (Mr. McKenzie); second, the Member for Simcoe-South (Mr. Stewart); third, the Member for Kingston and the Islands who gave Mr. Sherman her approval yesterday; and fourth, the prospective Progressive Conservative candidate in Winnipeg-Fort Garry.

I find it hard to reconcile these attitudes with a statement by the Leader of the Official Opposition in which he made it clear he would tolerate no dissent within his party. It seems Canadians will soon have a chance to put a stop to the linguistic foolishness of Progressive Conservatives.

[English]

HOUSE OF COMMONS

BROADCASTING OF PROCEEDINGS—CALL FOR **RE-EXAMINATION**

Mr. Geoff Scott (Hamilton-Wentworth): Mr. Speaker, I wonder if I might use this opportunity to suggest to Your Honour that we somehow bring into the mid 1980s the daily televising of the House of Commons, and especially this hour of statements and questions. This is your show, Mr. Speaker.

The House of Commons' broadcast service controls the way in which countless viewers perceive Parliament in action. Since 1977 televising the House of Commons has been treated like an electronic Hansard. I submit that this turgid, automated form of broadcasting our proceedings has outlived its usefulness in terms of enlightening Canadians on the parliamentary process. If anything, we are frustrating viewers because they cannot see or hear the true stuff of Question Period, as only the Hon. Member who is speaking can be shown on camera.

Broadcasting proceedings of the House of Commons is no longer experimental; after seven years it is a reality and a ritual with hundreds of thousands of Canadian viewers. As one who has both a working knowledge of television production and a love of Parliament, I am getting the seven-year itch. I feel that it is time for a re-examination of this system before the next Parliament.

May I suggest that the Chair set in motion an evaluation of what we can do technically, to sparkle up the production and perception of these proceedings. A special committee under Your Honour's chairmanship could obtain a political consensus on where we want to go and how we control the best daily hour-long television program from the nation's capital.

Let us demonstrate to Canadians how lucky we are to watch democracy in action, but let us give them the full picture.

Mr. Cyril Keeper (Winnipeg-St. James): Mr. Speaker, Canadians in most cities are presently receiving air travel sales, while in Winnipeg, where the Minister of Transport (Mr. Axworthy) comes from, Winnipegers must pay high air fares and are not receiving the benefit of any sales. Yet the Minister just announced the deregulation program that is supposed to bring about reduced fares by virtue of competition.

There is no competition in the air market in Winnipeg. The Minister is only threatening the possibility of such service in Winnipeg, while his constituents continue to pay very high prices for air fares.

PARLIAMENT

THE OFFICE OF SPEAKER IN THE PARLIAMENTS OF THE COMMONWEALTH-NEW BOOK BY COMMONS CLERK ASSISTANT, PHILIP LAUNDY

Mr. Maurice Foster (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, I should like to draw the attention of the House to a book which will be published on May 21. Its title is The Office of Speaker in the Parliaments of the Commonwealth. Its publication was sponsored by the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, and its author is Philip Laundy, one of our two Clerk Assistants.

Although the author published a previous book on the office of Speaker in 1964, the forthcoming publication is the first to cover the subject on a Commonwealth-wide basis. It deals with the Speakership in some 40 countries, ranging from the great subcontinent of India to the tiny islands of the Caribbean and the Pacific. One chapter is devoted to the history of the office, but the emphasis of the book is on the contemporary Speakership in these widely separated nations.

The common parliamentary heritage of the Commonwealth emerges very clearly from the pages of this book. A great deal of original research went into its preparation, and the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association considers it to be a significant contribution to the literature of Parliament.

It is for this reason that a subsidy was made available from the working capital fund to enable this book to be published. The fund was established to promote projects of this kind, and to assist smaller Parliaments of the Commonwealth to develop libraries or book collections.

Those of us who have been closely involved in the activities of the CPA have seen for ourselves the vital role that it plays in strengthening the ties within this great family of nations. We have seen that "unity in diversity" is more than a phrase; it is a practical philosophy which forms the basis of the Commonwealth. This is the theme that emerges from Philip Laundy's book, and I commend it to the attention of all parliamentarians.