

Oral Questions

[English]

IMMIGRATION

STATEMENT ATTRIBUTED TO FORMER B.C. SUPREME COURT
JUDGE CONDEMNED

Ms. Margaret Mitchell (Vancouver East): Mr. Speaker, this Party, and I certainly hope all members of the other two Parties do likewise, feels ashamed and degraded that a former judge of the B.C. Supreme Court should advocate in this day and age that our immigration policy should cater to non-coloured immigrants. What arrogance to suggest that a country, which originally belonged to the native Indian people, and which has been developed by people from many races, should cater only to Caucasian immigrants.

We in British Columbia are proud of the contribution of all our citizens. We oppose discrimination, both subtle and, as in this unfortunate case, obvious. Chinese Canadians built our railways and then their families were excluded by legislation at the beginning of the century. Japanese Canadians also contributed greatly to our culture and economy, yet we discriminated against them as well. Indo Canadians built our forest industry. It is time that we recognized all our citizens and chastized such persons as Mr. J. V. Clyne.

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CORPORATE AFFAIRS

CORPORATE CONCENTRATION—PRINCIPAL GROUP
BANKRUPTCY

Mr. Dave Dingwall (Cape Breton—East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, I rise today on a matter which will significantly affect Canada in coming years, that is, corporate concentration. That results when a firm or conglomerate dominates the market in which it operates. The causes of this domination range from relative efficiency to collusion among a small number.

The recent collapse of the Principal Group clearly illustrates that corporate paper games are severely damaging to the individual, to the credibility of financial institutions, and to government. These corporate actions do not create economic growth or jobs, they just make the whole economic pie smaller as specific interests gain control over a greater piece.

I call upon the Government of Canada to take specific action with regard to the collapse of the Principal Group, and also to curb these corporate concentration games being played by a select few.

• (1415)

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

AIR-INDIA CRASH—ALLEGED ADVANCE WARNING

Mr. John Nunziata (York South—Weston): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister and is with regard to the destruction of Air-India Flight 182 off the coast of Ireland over two years ago. According to an ex-RCMP informer the RCMP and the Security Intelligence Service had advance warning with regard to the bombing of Air-India Flight 182 which claimed the lives of 329 individuals.

Mr. Paul Besso, a former member of the Canadian Armed Forces, claims that he was personally present and carried a listening device given to him by the RCMP when several individuals discussed bombing the Air-India plane.

In view of these most serious allegations by an ex-RCMP informer, will the Prime Minister of Canada immediately initiate a Royal Commission inquiry into the bombing of Air-India Flight 182 and also into the behaviour and conduct of officials of the Government of Canada in advance of June 23, 1985?

Hon. James Kelleher (Solicitor General of Canada): Mr. Speaker, as I have on a number of earlier occasions in this House, I would like to refer to the response of the Minister of Transport at that time as reported in *Hansard* of June 25, 1985. He said:

Mr. Speaker, from time to time there were requests for additional security by Air-India authorities. There were extra RCMP deployed both at Toronto and at Mirabel, as there has been for some time. I should point out to the House that there was no indication that there was a specific threat to Flight 182—

I fully reinvestigated the matter this morning. That statement stands. It was true then and is still true right now.

STATEMENT ATTRIBUTED TO INFORMER

Mr. John Nunziata (York South—Weston): Mr. Speaker, Canadians are wondering why the Government of Canada has refused to initiate a Royal Commission inquiry into this particular tragedy. There was a Royal Commission inquiry into the Hinton rail disaster, there was a Royal Commission inquiry investigating the *Ocean Ranger* tragedy, and there was a Royal Commission inquiry costing Canadian taxpayers close to \$5 million into the conduct of a former Minister of the Crown.

Yet, with regard to the most serious, most gruesome, and most hideous crime in Canadian history, the murder of 329 individuals, the Canadian Government is refusing to come clean and have a full and complete investigation. Canadians are wondering whether the Government is hiding something.

Mr. Besso—