

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Friday, March 30, 1984

The House met at 11 a.m.

● (1105)

STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S.O. 21

[English]

TOURISM

IMPORTANCE TO ECONOMY

Mr. Stan Darling (Parry Sound-Muskoka): Mr. Speaker, I want to stress the importance of the domino effect of tourist dollars, and I wish to appeal to the House for support in bolstering the ailing tourist industry.

The dismal economic forecast is likely to have a detrimental effect on tourism this year. A large percentage of the population in my riding depends on tourism to keep bread on their tables. I believe it is crucial to recirculate tax dollars back into the tourism industry to fight unemployment through job creation.

The injection of funds into tourism invariably results in a highly desirable domino effect whereby all sectors of society may benefit. A strong tourist area is usually accompanied by healthy cottage and tertiary industries which may be unrelated to tourism.

We must regard tourism as an investment in the future of this country. It is an underdeveloped resource at this point and, so long as this is the case, Canadians will continue to miss the boat.

Obviously, escalation of the tourist industry will create widespread employment and revenue. We already have the natural resources. What we need most is a Government capable of capitalizing on what God has given to all of us.

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[Translation]

FORESTRY

GOVERNMENT'S PARTICIPATION IN FORESTRY DEVELOPMENT

Mrs. Éva Côté (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I may remind the House that last Friday, in Rimouski and New Richmond, the federal Minister of the Environment (Mr. Caccia) announced a \$19 million forestry program. The purpose of this program is reforestation and improvement of private woodlots in the Lower St. Law-

rence and Gaspé regions. With this contribution, which will be in the form of professional and technical, as well as financial assistance, the Canadian Government has shown its awareness of the fact that forests are a major natural resource and a necessary source of income for our region's producers and workers in the forestry sector. Under this program, farmers who also own private woodlots will be able to go to the Environment Canada office in Rimouski and receive any services they need for woodlot improvement.

On my own behalf and on behalf of owners of private woodlots in the Lower St. Lawrence and Gaspé regions, I want to thank the Government for doing its share to develop the forestry industry in our region, an industry that has suffered severe damage in recent years as a result of the spruce budworm epidemic.

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[English]

AIR SAFETY

DANGERS OF SMOKING ON COMMERCIAL AIRCRAFT

Mr. Geoff Scott (Hamilton-Wentworth): Mr. Speaker, I rise to express a purely personal opinion on a matter which has concerned me for some time, namely, smoking on commercial aircraft. During several recent flights I have discussed at length, with air crews of both Air Canada and CP Air, the hazards they face from smoking.

The staggered smoking and non smoking sections on the average commercial airliner are a joke. Most aircraft ventilation systems blow sidestream smoke all over the place and make life miserable for those in border line rows near the smoking sections.

Of far greater concern to flight attendants are the people who have a few drinks, fall asleep, and drop lighted cigarettes on scattered newspapers or on the upholstery. Such incidents have the potential of turning the most sophisticated airliner into a flying inferno, 35,000 feet up. Ground fires on aircraft, as we have seen, can be just as devastating.

Smoking is a luxury. On commercial airliners it is a very dangerous luxury.

While we can do nothing about long haul international flights, we can protect passengers and flight attendants from the annoyance and dangers of smoking on domestic airlines.

Even as a pipe smoker, my own personal desire would be to ban all smoking on domestic commercial airliners in Canada. Since that proposition raises all kinds of questions, such as the effectiveness of smoke detectors in washrooms, I want to see