

this injustice which has been perpetrated upon her? Will he do the right thing now?

**Hon. Don Mazankowski (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, I hope the Hon. Member will reflect upon just precisely what he is requesting me to do. He is asking that a Minister of the Crown become involved in the day-to-day management operations of a Crown corporation. He would be the first one to cry "foul" if that were to be the case. There is a clear arms length relationship. As I said in the House earlier, we receive many, many letters of complaint and many, many letters of commendation which are forwarded by the Department of Transport correspondence unit. That involves Members of Parliament and everyone.

The issue is not freedom of speech or whether a flight attendant has the right to criticize me or not. I do not mind that at all. I have taken lots of criticism. I have talked about working conditions and about the operations of Air Canada with many flight attendants and many pilots, and I will continue to do that.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

#### LETTER ADDRESSED TO MINISTER

**Mr. Ian Deans (Hamilton Mountain):** Mr. Speaker, I also have a question for the Minister of Transport. Does the Minister not realize that when the Minister or his staff sends a letter which is addressed personally to him, "Dear Don", to Air Canada, that the immediate inference would be drawn that the Minister would have known about and been involved in the matter?

**Hon. Don Mazankowski (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, if the Hon. Member is suggesting that every time he writes me a letter addressed "Dear Don", I am supposed to ignore it, I would not do that.

**Mr. Broadbent:** No, just the opposite.

**Mr. Deans:** I will point out to the Minister that I address all my letters to every Minister "Dear Mr. Minister".

**Mr. Clark (Yellowhead):** Surely not to Flora.

#### TERMS OF SUSPENSION

**Mr. Ian Deans (Hamilton Mountain):** Mr. Speaker, does the Minister not think that 30 days without income is a very severe penalty for having criticized the Government?

**Hon. Don Mazankowski (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, I am not sure whether the Hon. Member is privy to all the details—

**Mr. Deans:** Are you?

**Mr. Mazankowski:** No, I am not.

**Mr. Deans:** Well, answer my question. Do you think that's a fair penalty?

#### Oral Questions

**Mr. Mazankowski:** There is a multifaceted grievance procedure which has been agreed to and negotiated under the collective bargaining arrangement which is part of the collective agreement. As far as we are concerned it is a matter between Air Canada and its employees. It is interesting to note that the unions are not expressing a point of view on this particular issue, at least not publicly and officially.

• (1450)

I just want to say one thing. Hon. Members across the way—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. This is too long.

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[Translation]

#### EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

##### EMERGENCY SITUATION IN AFRICA—CANADA'S ROLE

**Mr. Gabriel Desjardins (Témiscamingue):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Hon. Minister for External Relations.

Following the extraordinary session of the United Nations last week to examine the emergency situation in Africa, how does the Minister evaluate the consensus reached last weekend and the role of Canada?

**Hon. Monique Vézina (Minister for External Relations):** Mr. Speaker, Africa made a giant step forward last week. The action program accepted yesterday morning by the 159 countries is a historical event. The international community has accepted to look lucidly and frankly at the problems facing Africa. Canada played an important role in this issue thanks to the special attention brought to it by our Prime Minister during the months before the Tokyo Summit.

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#### FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL RELATIONS

##### FISCAL AGREEMENTS WITH PROVINCES—GOVERNMENT POSITION

**Mr. Raymond Garneau (Laval-des-Rapides):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance.

[English]

Last Friday Chief Justice Brian Dickson deplored the disastrous cuts proposed by the federal Government in transfer payments to the provinces which will severely damage Canada's universities. Does the Minister agree with Chief Justice Dickson who said that second class funding of universities will inevitably lead to second class teachers, second class students and, ultimately, a second class nation?