

kind of process, especially for people who are not accustomed to airline security and air transportation.

In pursuing the authority that we in Parliament are giving to the minister and to the government to enact regulations, my plea is simply to have sensible regulations applicable on a uniform basis at airports throughout Canada, regulations that people will understand, appreciate, respect and therefore observe so that in the end we will have a more effective administration with which to achieve the purpose of the safety and security of airline passengers.

• (1650)

I have another point because the bill deals with the safety of aircraft passengers. It is a matter that is also subject to federal regulation, that is the carriage and storage of goods and baggage on board an aircraft.

How many times have you got on an aircraft with a bag which is within the regulations and found as you take your seat that the overhead compartment, which is the proper place to store the bag, was occupied? It could be pillows, equipment, flight attendants' baggage and so on. Consequently you move as a passenger to the next storage area, which means that the passenger arriving after you finds your bag in his or her storage area.

Surely this is a matter that can be regulated in some sensible way so we do not get this ludicrous loading of an aircraft where everybody is searching for a place to put their hand baggage, and then when the journey is completed there is a great mix-up as passengers try to retrieve their baggage.

I do not know exactly how the storage of baggage relates to safety, but the regulation is designed to ensure safe conditions aboard the aircraft. That is why we have the regulations in the first place. Having told airline employees and officials that baggage has to be stowed away, the government must come up with some sensible rules or a system whereby baggage is properly stowed away so that it will not create havoc in boarding and debarking from aircraft.

I know there are no provisions in Bill C-5 specifically relating to security measures at airports or to safety on board aircraft. The fact of the matter is that we in

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Parliament are giving that authority first to officials to draw the regulations, second to the minister to put them forward, third to the government to enact these regulations as law. My plea is simply that when this power is being exercised some common sense principles should be observed. This common sense element will ensure effectiveness of the regulations.

In justification for making this intervention, because I know my colleague from Cape Breton will be annoyed that I held up what I am sure will be an impressive delivery in the House of Commons, Bill C-5 makes it very clear that people who contravene the regulations may suffer all sorts of severe punishment pursuant to this regulatory authority. Whether they contravene them in Canada or abroad it does not matter because the bill provides that a contravention that occurs outside Canada can be punished within Canada.

The act is very clear on the obligations of Canadians and others as passengers on Canadian aircraft. I want the authorities to be equally clear about the methods, the systems, the processes and the procedures that they put into operation through the regulations which we in Parliament are empowering them to make.

Mr. Joe Comuzzi (Thunder Bay—Nipigon): Mr. Speaker, I was not going to intervene, but there are two issues that my colleague from Halifax West raised which I think deserve comment with respect to his government's position.

The first is the uniform safety and security precautions that he was asking for that would be consistently applied throughout the country. That is an area that we on this side of the House have been asking the Minister of Transport and his government to implement. That is simply a uniform security measure applicable throughout Canada, from anyone catching an airplane in Victoria, British Columbia right through to St. John's, Newfoundland. They should be as equally applicable in St. John's and Victoria as they are in Ottawa.

We all know, as our friend has just stated, that procedures are not the same in all airports. One issue that the ministry of transport should address is the security precautions within this country, particularly at this time, with a uniform application of security measures not only on luggage which is checked through