

Oral Questions

I take great pride in supporting the proposed Canadian Multiculturalism Act, and I applaud the Government, which has worked with diligence and vision, to prepare this very important and timely legislation.

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THE ADMINISTRATION**PARKER COMMISSION REPORT—CALL FOR PUBLICATION**

Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry—Prescott—Russell): Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) has finally admitted having received the long awaited Parker Commission Report concerning the allegations of conflict of interest against the Member of Parliament for York—Peel (Mr. Stevens).

Yesterday the Prime Minister stated that the Justice Department is now reviewing the 500-page document. As interesting as this may be, it is not a justifiable reason to delay access to this document by Members of Parliament. If it is a substantial report, as the Prime Minister says, then let all Members of Parliament see it and let the Prime Minister table it in the House of Commons today. The integrity of our parliamentary system is something which interests all Members of Parliament and all Canadians, not just the Prime Minister and his Cabinet colleagues.

Could it be that the Government is preparing a package on reform of public sector ethics before tabling the document in the House? If this is the case, then I suggest that the Prime Minister and his colleagues should have thought of the consequences before getting themselves in trouble, not after the acts were committed.

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MULTICULTURALISM**SUPPORT FOR NEW CANADIAN MULTICULTURALISM ACT**

Mrs. Mary Collins (Capilano): Mr. Speaker, I too would like to congratulate the Government on the introduction today of an historic Bill. The proposed Canadian Multiculturalism Act has been with us in spirit for many decades, yet we have lacked the legislative base which makes this Act so important not only for what Canada is today but for what our country can become tomorrow.

The Act will ensure that we continue to be a country in which Canadians of all origins have equal opportunities, in which their heritage is enhanced and shared, and in which social and working relations are based on mutual respect and understanding. In addition, the principles espoused in this Act will become part of the mandate of all federal government institutions and ministries.

This country enjoys a rich and dynamic cultural diversity. That diversity can contribute to our education system, to our scholarship, to international exchanges of scientific research and artistic achievement, and it can contribute to increasing global diplomacy and international trade. Using the knowledge and the skills of Canadians whose roots create a world-wide network of communications, this country can only be greater than it is already.

I believe that I voice the sentiments of all my hon. colleagues in offering my wholehearted support for the proposed Canadian Multiculturalism Act.

• (1420)

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

AIR SAFETY**AIRPORT SECURITY PROCEDURES—COMPUTERIZED BAGGAGE MATCHING SYSTEM**

Mr. Fernand Robichaud (Westmorland—Kent): Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to the Minister of Transport. Since the Air India disaster of June 1985, the question of airport and passenger security has continued to be a major concern of Canadians. First, a CBC reporter in Montreal got through security with a fake pistol and fake dynamite sticks; then it was learned that half of Pearson International's 1,500 security guards failed a written test on national security standards; then Transport Canada's own personnel reported that some 25 per cent of fake weapons deliberately carried through airport screening checks went completely undetected. Now we learn that there are yet more serious flaws with a new computerized baggage matching system at Pearson Airport.

Can the Minister explain why the new security measures his Department announced in April of last year are flawed and do not seem to offer proper security to airline passengers?

Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I suppose one should ask first where the Hon. Member learned about these tremendous security lapses. If he learned anything at all, it must have been from CBC Radio which this morning had an entirely inaccurate report on this very subject. That is what he says he learned it from.

Mr. Assad Kotaite, the President of the Council of ICAO, the International Civil Aviation Organization for those who do not know what the initials mean, noted last August that Canada now leads the world in airport baggage screening security. That is the state of security.

I would like to point out to the Hon. Member that since the terrible incident involving the Air India aircraft which occurred in June of 1985, the Government has authorized and is spending a total of something like \$60 million on improving and enhancing civil aviation security at our airports. We have