

Transportation Accident Investigation Board

Mr. Speaker, my hon. colleague refers, as does the report, to the disastrous effects of the debt on children and on Third World countries. In this regard, I would mention that I was very glad to table yesterday in the House the Bill that will cancel the debt of some sub-Saharan African countries, as a result of the Government's commitment.

Mr. Speaker, my hon. colleague referred to health. There too, we have contributed \$120 million to a universal immunization program.

I think that those are all very concrete actions to help the poorest and especially children in Third World countries.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

TRANSPORTATION ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION BOARD

MEASURE TO ENACT

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Bouchard (Roberval) that Bill C-2, an Act to establish the Transportation Accident Investigation Board and to amend certain Acts in consequence thereof be read a second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Transport.

Mr. Riis: Madam Speaker, I rise on a point of order. When debate ceased for Question Period and the House recessed the Hon. Member for Winnipeg Transcona (Mr. Blaikie) was on his feet. Other duties require that the Hon. Member be out of the House. I suggest that we continue on with the regular schedule of speakers.

Mr. Tom Wappel (Scarborough West): Madam Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to be able to say a few words in connection with Bill C-2. I understand that at this time we are discussing the Bill in principle as opposed to in detail. However, I would like to bring a few matters to the attention of Members on the government side. Hopefully, someone there will listen to some of the concerns I am going to express and perhaps take them into account when the matters are discussed in committee.

Scarborough West is one of the ridings which is part of Metropolitan Toronto—

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): The only reason I interrupt the Hon. Member is so that we can have a little more quiet in the House. I think that would

make it easier for the Hon. Member to speak and for the Speaker and everyone else to listen.

Mr. Wappel: Madam Speaker, as I was saying, Scarborough West forms part of Metropolitan Toronto. Metropolitan Toronto is very concerned about transportation, as I am sure are other areas, but specifically Toronto since it has the Pearson International Airport. There are many rail lines going through it. It is located on Lake Ontario. It is a port both for Great Lakes shipping and international shipping. Needless to say the people of Toronto and the people of Scarborough West are very concerned with transportation safety.

That being said, I would like to discuss some of the specifics of Bill C-2 beginning with the stated purpose of the Bill. It is to advance transportation safety. Who could possibly be against such a purpose? We are all interested in the advancement of transportation safety.

How will this Government advance the safety of the Canadian public? We have before us Bill C-2, which is a rather lengthy document. The first thing that it proposes is the establishment of a Transportation Accident Investigation Board.

I would really appreciate it if some Hon. Members would allow me the courtesy of making my remarks.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): The Chair has tried to bring all Hon. Members to attention. I would like the Hon. Member to notice that the noise does not come from only one side of the House.

Mr. Wappel: Madam Speaker, I am delighted with any noise on this side of the House.

As I was saying, there is to be a proposed board. This proposed board it is suggested will apply its efforts to three separate areas. They are aviation occurrences, marine occurrences and railway occurrences. I have a conceptual problem with this idea. The types of occurrences that will occur, hopefully very infrequently, with respect to these different types of transportation are so completely different that it seems foolhardy to group them all together so that they fall within the jurisdiction of one five-member board.

I raise this matter because this Bill was brought forward in order to replace an Act which the Liberal Party brought forward in 1984 which established the Canadian Aviation Safety Board. I mention that board specifically because in that legislation we were dealing with aviation safety. We were talking about a board which was established for the specific purpose of dealing with safety in aviation. We now have a board which will be established for the purpose of dealing with all types of transportation. If it is possible for the members of the