

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Speaker: And there being such consent, shall the motion carry?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Motion agreed to.

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[Translation]

QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

Mr. Doug Lewis (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, I ask that all questions be allowed to stand.

Mr. Speaker: Is it agreed?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

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MOTIONS FOR PAPERS

Mr. Doug Lewis (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, I ask that all notices of motions for the production of papers be allowed to stand.

Mr. Speaker: Is it agreed?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

BUSINESS OF SUPPLY

ALLOTTED DAY, S.O. 82—SUSPENSION OF AIR CANADA FLIGHT ATTENDANT

Mr. Ian Deans (Hamilton Mountain) moved:

That this House believes that the recent action by Air Canada, in suspending flight attendant Toni Corrado for 30 days as the result of her reply to questions from a Progressive Conservative convention delegate during a flight from Vancouver to Montreal, was improper and denies the principle of free speech as guaranteed in Canada's Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

He said: Mr. Speaker, I want to begin by saying that I hope in the process of making my argument this afternoon that not only will the Government pay particular attention to the points I am trying to make, but that the Crown corporations and other agencies of this Government and all other Governments across Canada will likewise pay heed.

Canada's Charter of Rights was hailed by many people as a very progressive and acceptable move, both in its original form when the Right Hon. John George Diefenbaker introduced it

Supply

in 1960 as a Bill of Rights, and subsequently when it was introduced and passed in 1981 by the then Parliament under the leadership of Prime Minister Pierre Elliot Trudeau.

I want to point out that back in 1960 the Right Hon. Diefenbaker said:

This measure that I introduce is the first step on the part of Canada to carry out the acceptance either of the international declaration of human rights or of the principles that actuated those who produced that noble document.

Later in that decade in 1968 the Right Hon. Lester B. Pearson said:

Canadians could take no more meaningful step than to entrench firmly in our Constitution those fundamental rights and liberties which we possess and cherish.

In 1981 the then Prime Minister Trudeau said:

We must now establish the basic principles, the basic values and beliefs which hold us together as Canadians so that beyond our regional loyalties there is a way of life and a system of values which makes us proud of the country that has given us such freedom and such immeasurable joy.

Article 1 of the Charter says the following:

1. The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms guarantees the rights and freedoms set out in it subject only to such reasonable limits prescribed by law as can be demonstrably justified in a free and democratic society.

Article 2 then goes on to describe the fundamental freedoms that we in Canada enjoy. It says the following:

2. Everyone has the following fundamental freedoms: (a) freedom of conscience and religion; (b) freedom of thought, belief, opinion and expression, including freedom of the press and other media of communication; (c) freedom of peaceful assembly; and (d) freedom of association.

I want to make it clear that what I am talking about today is that fundamental freedom enjoyed by all Canadians that has not been taken away from anyone by virtue of any law being passed by Canada at the federal level. In other words, I am making the case at this point that Toni Corrado, among others working for Air Canada, or for that matter for anyone else, enjoys the right to freedom of speech under the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

There is no law, as would be required under Section 1, that has been passed by this House which would in any way limit that freedom she and others enjoy.

I want to go on to point out that it says in Article 32, under the application of the Charter:

32. (1) This Charter applies (a) to the Parliament and Government of Canada in respect of all matters within the authority of Parliament including all matters relating to the Yukon Territory and Northwest Territories;—

It goes on to say the same applies to the provinces. I point out that those three sections support the argument that must be made about what happened to Toni Corrado, and what could be used by others against similar kinds of things, were they to arise. Clearly, Air Canada falls within the definition of a matter that falls within the authority of the Parliament of Canada and the Government of Canada. Clearly that woman, like all other employees of Air Canada and other employees of the Government and its agencies, is entitled to the protection of the Charter because there has been no movement by this Government or any other Government to relieve them of that protection.