

## S. O. 21

## TRADE

## EFFECT OF IMPORT REGULATIONS ON TENT MAKERS

**Hon. Bob Kaplan (York Centre):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to bring to the attention of Hon. Members the damage that is being done to a number of small industries in Canada which depend on imports which they manufacture for sale. I am referring to items such as shirts, neckties, clothing and, latterly, tents. Tent manufacturers, like the others I mentioned, have to compete with their finished products against foreign imports. The products they want to use to manufacture their goods are subject to heavy duty, if they wish to bring them in from abroad.

I submit that when an industry cannot obtain a Canadian manufacturer that is comparable in terms of its product and its appropriateness for manufacturing a product, it should be allowed to import duty-free. This case has been made by manufacturer after manufacturer. They are now beginning to go out of business.

Tent manufacturers are in very grave jeopardy. I urge the Government to look at their situation and to take steps now, where foreign competition is so serious, to allow them to import the goods that they need to manufacture their products here in Canada.

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[Translation]

## NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY

UTILIZATION OF PRIVILEGES RESERVED FOR  
PARLIAMENTARIANS

**Mr. Gabriel Fontaine (Lévis):** Mr. Speaker, yesterday at my home in Charny, I received an envelope on which the sender was identified as being the Hon. Member for Oshawa (Mr. Broadbent). The envelope contained a letter printed on official House of Commons paper, from the office of the Leader of the NDP.

The letter is essentially a political one and contains a message about the Canadian tax system. It also contains a card addressed to the Hon. Member's office, no postage required, which will be used to make lists of addresses of Canadian citizens. The addressee is asked simply to sign at the bottom of the following form, which says, and I quote: "I want you to know what I think about fair taxes and jobs". And there is a space for the names and addresses of those who complete this form.

Mr. Speaker, the leader of the socialist Party is increasingly using Members' privileges for his own Party's political purposes.

Mr. Speaker, this simple letter, if sent to five and a half million addresses in Canada, will cost taxpayers \$550,000. It is

high time Canadians judged the honesty of these socialists. They must give an explanation today, here in the House.

I wonder, is it me or is it just the weather that is getting on the nerves of those—gaymocrats, Mr. Speaker.

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● (1415)

[English]

## HISTORIC EVENTS

ANNIVERSARY OF ARRIVAL OF CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS IN  
NORTH AMERICA

**Ms. Sheila Copps (Hamilton East):** Mr. Speaker, the Government talks a lot about multicultural policy, but when the time comes to deliver it is noticeably absent. I refer specifically to the Government's lack of action in respect of the five hundredth anniversary of the arrival of Christopher Columbus in North America.

I have here a letter dated March 18, 1984, from former Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau naming Alex Roncari of the City of Hamilton the chairman of the quincennial celebration. More than three years have elapsed, and the Government will not even commit itself to having a committee to look at what Canada will do to celebrate the five hundredth anniversary of the arrival of Christopher Columbus in North America.

*E facile per parlare di multiculturalismo, ma quando arrivo il tempo di fare qualche' cosa, questo governo non fa niente.*

It is easy to talk about it. I want the chairman from Hamilton to be recognized and allowed to continue in his work, not stopped by the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Clark) as he is doing at the moment.

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## RAILWAYS

CANADIAN TRANSPORT COMMISSION—FORTHCOMING  
DECISION ON CABOOSELESS TRAINS

**Mr. Bill Blaikie (Winnipeg—Birds Hill):** Mr. Speaker, many Members might be aware of the fact that the Canadian Transport Commission is wrapping up its hearings in Ottawa this week in respect of the application of railways to run cabooseless trains. I want Hon. Members to be aware—and perhaps they are not—of the seriousness of the decision the CTC would be making if it decided to do what the railways wanted and allowed cabooseless trains to run.

The railways have argued sometimes on the basis of the American experience. However, if the CTC were to decide to allow cabooseless trains in Canada, we would have a situation quite different from that in the United States where only 25