

S.O. 22

AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 2 p.m.

STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S.O. 22

[Translation]

AIR SAFETY

AIR CANADA—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Hon. André Ouellet (Papineau): Mr. Speaker, ever since the beginning of the labour dispute between Air Canada and the union representing about 3,000 flight attendants the Minister of Transport (Mr. Mazankowski) has strangely remained silent about the major issue of air safety.

Indeed it has been stated in some circles that the safety of passengers travelling aboard Air Canada flights these days may be jeopardized because of the lack of experience of hastily trained substitutes who replace the regular flight attendants. Mr. Speaker, the Canadian public has the right to be protected.

According to Air Canada flight attendants association member Paul Roy, in an emergency situation such as a fire aboard an aircraft, a passenger suffering from a heart attack, a case of hijacking or any other incident requiring the immediate evacuation of passengers, there is no assurance that the so-called flight attendants would show the calmness, discipline and competence required in such situations.

If the opinion of Mr. Roy is founded, Mr. Speaker, I think it is inconceivable that neither the Minister of Transport nor the Minister of Labour (Mr. McKnight) have seen fit to intervene to solve this Air Canada dispute before an air disaster occurs.

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[English]

NATIONAL PARKS

ESTABLISHMENT OF ELLESMERE NATIONAL PARK

Hon. Chas. L. Caccia (Davenport): Mr. Speaker, we on this side of the House applaud the new Minister of the Environment (Mr. McMillan) for the announcement he made two days ago in Banff. It has taken several years to finalize arrangements for Ellesmere National Park. Everyone in the House will agree with the Minister that there is no finer way of establishing Canada's sovereignty in the Arctic than through national parks. We urge the Minister, therefore, to create a network of Arctic parks in which Ellesmere represents only the first.

We also applaud the new Minister for the will that he expressed in supporting the establishment of a park in South Moresby, one of the richest wilderness areas in the world. On

the eve of Expo 86 the eyes of the world are on us. Premier Bennett will want to let the world know that his Government is positive about preserving the rich ecology of South Moresby for keeps. The area in question represents only .2 per cent of the forest area in B.C. The number of loggers affected is 35. The native peoples are in favour of retaining the wilderness area. Now that the Minister of the Environment has made a strong positive statement, we urge him to negotiate speedily with Victoria.

Recently the federal Government was capable of finding over \$250 million to rescue a bank, using taxpayers' money. It surely can find the money needed to protect the heritage of South Moresby considering the strong and enthusiastic support given to the Minister—

Mr. Speaker: I regret to advise the Hon. Member that his time has expired. The Hon. Member for Cowichan-Malahat-The Islands (Mr. Manly).

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CANADIAN ARMED FORCES

RECOUPMENT OF RENT SUBSIDY OVERPAYMENTS

Mr. Jim Manly (Cowichan-Malahat-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, why is there one set of rules when the Government makes a mistake respecting rich people and another when it makes a mistake affecting ordinary Canadians? The Government made a mistake—a very high level mistake—when it took part in an attempt to rescue the Canadian Commercial Bank. As a result, depositors thought that the bank was basically sound. Now that the bank has failed in spite of the Government's assurances, the Government plans to make good its mistake and to use taxpayers' money to bail out depositors. That is how the Government acts when it makes a mistake which affects the well-to-do, but what happens when a Government mistake affects ordinary Canadians?

Between 1982 and 1984 the Government miscalculated and overpaid rent subsidies for married quarters at CFB Esquimalt. Now that this \$.5 million mistake has been discovered by the auditors, the Government is deducting the overpayment from the pay cheques of those people who are still in the services. Individual debts range from \$100 to \$1,700. At the very time when rent increases will strain family budgets, service people face the additional burden of paying for a government mistake. Why can we not have justice rather than a double standard?

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LITERACY

PARKDALE PROJECT TO ERADICATE ILLITERACY

Mr. Andrew Witer (Parkdale-High Park): Mr. Speaker, every September 8 is observed as International Literacy Day by the members of the United Nations around the world. One in four adults in the world cannot read or write. In Canada one