October 6, 1986

It seems to me that if there is one facility which is lying waste and another which is completely crowded to capacity, then this is an unimaginable situation for anyone who has experienced it on Sunday, Monday or Tuesday night. Why did the Minister of Transport not say to TAP that we would be very happy to see it land in southwestern Ontario but that it will have to be at Hamilton and not Toronto? There are many people living in the vicinity of the Hamilton area. We are the hub of the golden horseshoe and not that far from Toronto. It would certainly be easy to set up a shuttle service between the two airports, thus permitting people who want to fly beyond the southwestern Ontario area to proceed to their connections. However, there is a Minister who really revealed his true colours when he went to Atlantic Canada and told Atlantic Canadians that they should stop complaining because they have it better than those in Bangladesh or Sri Lanka. He said the same thing when he came to Hamilton. He said he would deal with our concerns and try to assist the airport, but within the short space of a few days he agreed to let another airline into Toronto while this particular airport is being neglected.

• (1640)

There is one reason for this, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps I could give some positive advice to the Prime Minister. Those in Hamilton need a cabinet Minister from the Hamilton area. The Minister who is currently designated as the Minister for Hamilton is the Hon. Member from Oakville. His designation escapes me because he comes to Hamilton so seldom that no one even knows who he is. I am sure that if I were to ask 10 people at Jackson Square who the Minister responsible for Hamilton is, they would not know that it is the Minister of State for Fitness and Amateur Sport (Mr. Jelinek). I suppose that is the only association he has with Hamilton. We do have a good football team and shortly we will have an NHL franchise.

Nevertheless, Mr. Speaker, we need a cabinet Minister from Hamilton.

An Hon. Member: What about you?

Ms. Copps: I would volunteer but I am on the wrong side of the House. My services are available as a consultant, but unfortunately I am on the wrong side of the House.

Mr. Blackburn (Brant): No, the other side.

Ms. Copps: The other side, that's right.

When decisions are to be made about transport and airports, if we had a cabinet Minister from Hamilton we would hear a Hamilton voice. Right now Hamilton is voiceless. It is without representation in Cabinet and we are getting the short end of the stick. To be blunt, we are getting the bone job. The only way to remedy that is to get a cabinet Minister from Hamilton who will fight for us. I will have more to say on this in the coming weeks.

The Address-Ms. Copps

Mr. Redway: Mr. Speaker, yesterday in Montreal, the Leader of the Hon. Member's Party, the Right Hon. Member for Vancouver Quadra (Mr. Turner), was quoted as saying that only the Liberals have the courage to address squarely issues such as the Constitution, free trade, environment and energy. I know that the Hon. Member is a leading spokesperson for her Party and a firm and strong supporter of her Leader. I wonder if she would be kind enough to tell us definitively of her Party's policies with respect to the Constitution, trade negotiations with the United States, the environment and energy. And while she is at it, perhaps she could tell us of her Party's position with respect to the deficit.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Order, please. I do not know what the first part of the question put by the Hon. Member for York East (Mr. Redway) meant in regard to the speech made by the Hon. Member for Hamilton East (Ms. Copps). However, I will let it go this time. I would hope that the Hon. Member would keep it in the context of what the Hon. Member has just finished saying.

Ms. Copps: Mr. Speaker, of course, with the unanimous consent of the House to extend my discussion period, I would be very happy to answer all those questions. However, the point made by the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Turner) was a very valid and positive point. In the context of multilateral discussions, the Liberal Party has been the only Party that consistently, from the beginning, has said that we should not be putting all our eggs into the bilateral basket. If we spent the kind of money that we are currently spending on sending Simon Reisman to Washington with his team and keeping Mr. Reisman and the Minister for International Trade (Miss Carney) singing from the same hymn book on other things, we would be a lot better off in terms of international trade.

With respect to the Constitution, there has been an extremely positive resolution from the Quebec caucus as well as the Quebec wing of the federal Party, a resolution which will be debated at length at the policy convention which will be held in November. That particular position has been enunciated with some modification by our Leader in an extremely informative article—

[Translation]

—in the newspaper *Le Devoir* which I would be very pleased to send you. I think that the Liberal policy on the Constitution is the only clear policy, the only policy which endorses the concept that Quebec has indeed certain different characteristics. Having worked in Quebec, I can say that I unreservedly support the statements made by Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra) in the newspaper *Le Devoir*, and I look forward to a very interesting debate during our convention in November.

[English]

Mr. Blenkarn: Mr. Speaker, I was wondering if the Hon. Member for Hamilton East (Ms. Copps), who has good relationships with the Liberal Peterson Government of Ontario, would not agree that the major problem with the