Government Orders

In terms of the third issue—I will be going into this in some detail a bit later on—what about the provisions of the Official Languages Act that do not all apply in Bill C-85?

Fourth, what is the bottom line of local authorities? The bottom line of governments is a bottom line that suggests there is something greater than simply the financial bottom line. There is a bottom line in quality of service, in equity of service, in protection of jobs and in the protection of safety in travelling across this vast country.

The bottom line of local authorities may in fact be very different than the bottom line of governments. Therefore, we will have a clash between what is in the interest of the private as opposed to what is interest of the public good.

Fifth, what about the expertise and experience of Transport Canada in running our airports across this country? Will the experience of those who have worked long and hard in the transport field across the airports and their expert knowledge be lost? What kind of variable will that have in terms of the safety evaluation and safety equasion?

Sixth, will local authorities be allowed at one time or another to impose local increased taxes on their municipalities to make up the shortfall for their airports? Has this government thought that out? If we were to transfer the authority to Edmonton or Vancouver, in a few years time they will increase the municipal tax base in order to make up for some shortfalls at the airports. Is that right?

I suggest it is not right because those airports are part of a national service. If there is an airport in Edmonton, it is not only Canadians from that city who use that airport. It is Canadians from all over the country. Therefore, that burden must be equally shared.

What about number seven, local authorities having a double standard. That is to say, local authorities would be lining up to get the authority for the very popular often used airports.

What about the less used airports in the north, in the east and in the west? Will authorities rush to try to obtain the authority and power over those airports? If they do not, we are going to have two tiers. We are going

to have local authorities at the popular airports, and the Government of Canada in the other airports.

What is that going to mean in terms of the service for Canadians at all those airports? We obviously are getting into a different bottom line arrangement with this government. Canadians and Liberal members on this side do not like it.

I mention this briefly because I believe I only have about five minutes left in this discourse. I would love to continue. I might if members on the opposite side are so disposed, but I and members in my party are concerned about the application of the official languages component to Bill C-85.

There is a strong concern whether the federal principle of bilingualism is going to be safeguarded and protected.

The minister will know that the Official Languages Act is divided into 12 parts. In fact, a number of those parts are not entirely interested in terms of local authority. That is why it is obvious that parts I, II, III, VI and VII 7 are not included in Bill C-85. They are not legitimately relevant.

However, it is not so obvious why Part V-Language of Work, Part VI-Participation of English Speaking and French Speaking Canadians, and Part VII-Advancement of English and French are not included in Bill C-85.

The operative clause in Part V states:

English and French are the languages of work in all federal institutions, and officers and employers of all federal institutions have the right to use either official language in accordance with this Part

It would seem anomalous to have a Part of Bill C-85 which reports to protect the use of both the French and English languages in relation to the public, if the employee's use of either language is not protected.

Why is Part V of our Official Languages Act not applicable in Bill C-85?

Part VI states:

This Part states that the Government of Canada is committed to ensuring that English and French Speaking Canadians without regard to ethnic origin or first language have equal opportunities to gain employment or advancement in federal institutions. The workforce in particular federal institutions should also reflect the presence of both official language groups.

Again, this is a Part of the Official Languages Act which is designed to protect workers of both groups.