

● (1130)

## PROMISE OF TRANSPORT MINISTER—GOVERNMENT POSITION

**Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa):** Mr. Speaker, the Minister did not answer the question directly. The Minister of Transport promised the people of the region that the federal Government intended to share (the cost) dollar for dollar with the Government of Quebec. That is the promise of the Minister of Transport. And now, this Minister (Miss MacDonald) repeated what the Minister of National Defence said yesterday; that is, we have another example of a promise broken by the Government. That is the case.

**Miss MacDonald (Kingston and the Islands):** No!

**Mr. Broadbent:** The Minister says no. But why did the Minister of Transport directly promise Quebecers that the federal Government intended to share (the cost) equally? Why?

**Hon. Flora MacDonald (Minister of Communications):** Mr. Speaker, I made clear that the Minister of National Defence explained the formula in case of disasters yesterday and I ask the Hon. Member for Oshawa to read his words.

**Mr. Broadbent:** Mr. Speaker, I read his words and that is why I am asking this question. It is because the Minister of National Defence said one thing, but the Minister of Transport told Quebecers the opposite, for political reasons. I understand that very well.

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[English]

## AIR CANADA

## TRANSPORTATION OF PCBs TO WALES

**Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa):** Mr. Speaker, I have another question concerning the Government's hypocrisy, to put it directly, on this matter.

A week ago we saw a couple of Ministers on television attacking Air Canada for transporting PCBs from Canada to Wales, fully consistent with federal regulations. If the Government is sincere and not just playing political games, instead of attacking Air Canada for acting on federal regulations, why does it not change those regulations?

**Hon. Flora MacDonald (Acting Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I think it is very important to note that the Minister of Transport wrote to the President of Air Canada expressing the view of the Government of Canada. He said in his letter, and it has been made public, "I would like to receive your immediate assurance that Air Canada will not carry PCB

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waste or similar waste on aircraft carrying passengers". He made that very explicit to the President of Air Canada.

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[Translation]

## DISASTERS

## SAINT-BASILE-LE-GRAND TRAGEDY—MINISTER OF TRANSPORT'S PROMISE TO COMPENSATE VICTIMS—GOVERNMENT POSITION

**Hon. Jean Lapierre (Shefford):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the acting Prime Minister. I want her to adjust her set because I want to read to her the words reported and heard on CKAC on August 26, 1988 at 7.45 p.m., on the program *Dimension*. These are the words of the Minister of Transport.

The message is very short. The message is very simple. It is simply to tell you that the Government of Canada intends to be involved and there are various programs. Ottawa will put in as much money as Quebec so that "we can deal with the situation in the best possible way." So said Benoit Bouchard.

Can the Minister explain to me what those words mean, in view of what the Minister of National Defence said yesterday?

[English]

**Hon. Flora MacDonald (Acting Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I have already explained that the Minister of National Defence, who is responsible for this dossier, gave the details on this matter yesterday in the House of Commons. I want to assure the Hon. Member that certain conditions have to be met. The province must put in an official request for compensation and assistance. That is the process which must be followed.

[Translation]

## SAINT-BASILE-LE-GRAND TRAGEDY—COMPENSATION FOR VICTIMS—GOVERNMENT POSITION

**Hon. Jean Lapierre (Shefford):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to get back to the Minister of Communications in her capacity of Acting Prime Minister. She heard the statement made by the Minister of Transport on August 26, which was clear and specific. Let's not confuse the issue! The fact is that the Minister of Transport promised a dollar for a dollar, not half, not one-quarter, not 25 cents, 35 cents or 50 cents, but a dollar for a dollar! I would like to ask the Minister whether the Minister of Transport's word is worth at least a dollar. If it is not, is the Minister of National Defence going to try to make us forget what the Minister of Transport said by contradicting the Minister of Transport and, in the process, make it clear to us and to the people of Saint-Basile-le-Grand that the Minister of Transport lied outright?