

Oral Questions

herring. New Brunswick, including Moncton, is bilingual. We are very proud of it. We recognize our obligations to those who use the air navigation services and we will try to take all the necessary steps to ensure their safety.

•(1155)

Mr. Philippe Paré (Louis-Hébert): Mr. Speaker, how does the minister justify that two areas in Quebec are not adequately served in French from the control unit in Quebec City, which could provide this service in French?

Hon. Douglas Young (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, we will keep on doing our utmost to provide adequate services to ensure the safety of the people who use the air navigation system in Quebec and in the rest of Canada.

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[English]

GUN CONTROL

Mr. Lee Morrison (Swift Current—Maple Creek—Assiniboia): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Justice.

A few weeks ago I attended a briefing by a group of gun control activists. They freely acknowledged that "additional controls would have little or no effect on violent crime". To justify their position they pointed to the 31 per cent of suicides that are committed with guns and which they claimed might be partly preventable.

Since 27 per cent of suicides are committed—

The Speaker: Order, please. Once again I am loathe to intervene in the question and answer period, but I would ask the hon. member to please put his question.

Mr. Morrison: Mr. Speaker, I was into my question. I am sorry.

Will the minister show some responsibility and protect us from ourselves by instituting a rope control program, with rope acquisition certificates and a mandatory registration of all ropes more than a metre long?

The Speaker: The Chair is a little confused. I am not quite sure if that is a hypothetical question or not, but I will permit the hon. minister to answer it, if he likes.

Hon. Allan Rock (Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada): Mr. Speaker, I would be delighted. I should first observe that the hon. member has demonstrated that if we give him enough rope he will hang himself.

Mr. Lee Morrison (Swift Current—Maple Creek—Assiniboia): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary. On Wednesday my colleague from Prince George—Peace River pointed out that no hard data exists to demonstrate that further gun control legislation will reduce gun related crime. On several occasions the minister has stated that we must look for the root causes of crime rather than caving in to knee-jerk reactions.

Will the minister commit that he will introduce no further gun control legislation until there is hard statistical evidence that the current legislation is not working?

Hon. Allan Rock (Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada): Mr. Speaker, the approach which we take for safe homes and safe streets will be comprehensive dealing with the causes of crime, dealing with strengthening the criminal justice system and dealing as well with crime prevention.

The facts show that after the introduction of gun control legislation in 1976, indeed the criminal misuse of weapons did diminish and that is the statistical fact.

We are going to devise, we are going to introduce, we are going to develop with the support of caucus proposals for further regulation of firearms that will make this society even safer. That is only part of the comprehensive agenda of this government with respect to crime and violence in Canada.

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THE ENVIRONMENT

Hon. Charles Caccia (Davenport): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Industry.

There are disturbing reports in connection with the trade agreement being negotiated between the federal government and the provinces to the effect that plans for cutting interprovincial trade barriers will create environmental and social harm.

Can the minister assure this House that the environment is being taken fully into account in these negotiations and that the end result will be a trade agreement in which environmental, social and trade goals will have been integrated?

Hon. John Manley (Minister of Industry): Mr. Speaker, I will of course pay tribute to the great reputation my colleague from Davenport has on environmental issues and his concerns. When he raises concerns on these issues we know they come from understanding and heartfelt conviction.

•(1200)

In negotiating this internal trade agreement, for the first time in a trade agreement we are including a chapter dealing with environmental protection. It is the first time we have done that.