

S. O. 31

when it comes to their home constituencies, they want Canada to be an international trading partner and they want Canada to have these kinds of programs which promote their own constituency, but when it gets to the global enterprise, somehow or another they cannot quite manage to grasp the significance of what is being done.

The programs that I have mentioned do not cater to the multinational corporate elite, as you would have believed from listening to the comments earlier. They are for Canadian companies large and small. They are for companies that are found right across Canada; Halifax, Guelph, Gravelburg, Saskatchewan. They employ your neighbours and mine. Our programs are not just for big companies, they are for all Canadian companies.

Our strategy for trade starts at home. We will not be successful traders abroad unless we are successful competitors at home.

I have travelled across this country in the last two years, talking about what we need to do to be a competitive nation, telling the people about the use of technology and how it will help us in terms of economic growth, giving facts and figures of the difficulties as I see them and there has been a response. The whole prosperity initiative is based upon these kinds of discussions with Canadians from coast to coast. They do not want us to rip up the FTA. They want us to continue our discussions with NAFTA. They understand that Canada is a trading nation and must remain so.

• (1100)

Madam Deputy Speaker: Unfortunately, I will have to interrupt the hon. minister. He will have a little more than eight minutes remaining when we resume debate.

STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S. O. 31

[English]

DELTA HOSPITAL

Mr. Stan Wilbee (Delta): Madam Speaker, yesterday there was a collision between a British Columbia ferry and a Japanese bulk coal carrier off Roberts Bank which is located in my riding of Delta.

The 17 injured passengers were taken to Delta hospital for acute emergency care. Although the hospital only has 75 acute care beds, because it is on many major transportation links and the only hospital south of the Fraser River it has developed an excellent emergency and disaster control program.

This hospital had also handled several casualties from the fatal bus crash on Highway 99 the day before and these casualties had strained the bed situation. In spite of that they handled the emergencies very well yesterday.

I would like to commend the paramedics involved in transporting the injured as well as the administrator, the nursing staff and my former medical colleagues at the Delta hospital for a job well done in bringing good care and comfort to those injury victims. Their planning, practice and expertise has once again paid off in an excellent way.

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THE CONSTITUTION

Hon. Warren Allmand (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce): Madam Speaker, the Minister Responsible for Constitutional Affairs has considerably angered Quebecers by recently suggesting that they would lose their Canadian citizenship if Quebec separates.

In the first place, ministers of the government should not speculate on what might happen as a result of any sovereignty referendum.

Second, the minister is absolutely wrong with respect to the law. At present Canadian law permits dual citizenship. One can be a Canadian and at the same time an American. One can be a Canadian and an Italian.

Furthermore, one can live for a considerable period of time in another country and still retain one's Canadian citizenship.

The only way a Canadian can lose his or her citizenship is by deliberately renouncing it. Obviously, those who vote for Quebec separation would want to do that. But those who do not will have every right to retain this important heritage. Quebecers are worried enough about the situation in their province and do not need unnecessary speculation to upset them even more.