

Supply

the cabinet Minister did not do his job? Was it when the cabinet Minister let down the people of Canada? No. It was when the cabinet Minister told the truth, when the cabinet Minister called a spade a spade. When the cabinet Minister told the people of Canada the facts as they were that is when he was fired.

We saw the same type of harassment in the rather ridiculous situation of a delicatessen owner in the Byward Market in the City of Ottawa who decided to launch a number of sandwiches during the Sinc Stevens affair. He is a great entrepreneur. In the Progressive Conservative spirit he wants to call a buck a buck. He wants to make a buck on a sandwich. He launched the Sinc Stevens sandwich: one layer of turkey, one layer of hot air, one layer of baloney, all dressed, lay it away interest-free only \$1.99. One would think that members of the Progressive Conservative Party, as interested as they are in free enterprise, would laud this particular entrepreneurship in the Byward Market. Instead we saw a senior Conservative lawyer prevail upon the owner of this delicatessen who himself had come from a country of persecution, a country where people were not allowed to speak out. He said to him: "Listen. You better cut off these sandwiches. You better cut off this political statement or you will find that you will be boycotted by Progressive Conservatives". I wish to tell Hon. Members that this particular deli owner—

Miss Carney: Freedom of choice.

Ms. Copps: The Hon. Member for Vancouver Centre says: "Freedom of choice." It is freedom of choice. The people could have gone to the deli in the Byward Market and bought a Sinc Stevens sandwich, or they could have bought a Nielsen sandwich. The turkey is a code for Nielsen. They could have bought a bologna sandwich—

• (1600)

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. I know it is difficult to call it a "York—Peel sandwich" but would the Hon. Member refer to Members by constituencies and not by names? I am referring to the Hon. Member for York—Peel (Mr. Stevens) and the Hon. Member for Yukon (Mr. Nielsen).

Ms. Copps: Right, Mr. Speaker. I am referring to the sandwiches.

They could have been selling a Cappicola Copps Sandwich, a sandwich named after the Hon. Member for Hamilton East. This is a free country and a guy had an idea to sell a bologna sandwich for \$1.99. It was not a bad deal. Instead, the Government is paranoid about this. It is the same kind of paranoia we see in the Corrado case. The letter that came from that Conservative delegate should have been thrown in the wastebasket. We receive hundreds of letters.

[Translation]

I am sure all Members of all Parties get letters from various sources. Had I received a letter from somebody complaining about someone else having exercised his or her freedom of

expression as guaranteed under the Canadian Charter of Human Rights and Freedoms, I would have filed it away, like in the wastepaper basket. Indeed it does not make any sense that Air Canada should be expected to conduct an inquiry into the case of a flight attendant who did exercise her freedom of expression. As a matter of fact, she is not the one who began the argument with the Progressive Conservative Party delegates. She simply responded to the invitation of this delegate, Mrs. Donna Ford of British Columbia.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I would suggest this is a case of harassment which reaches right into the basic rights of Canadian men and women.

Personally, I do not want to be afraid of saying anything to anybody in Canada. I should like to say what I think without fear of being harassed by the Government, or by the Minister of Transport (Mr. Mazankowski), or by the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Miss Carney), or by the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney), because I do live in a country where I am free to say whatever I want.

I think that such freedom of expression should be guaranteed in any democratic country, but we can see that some of our rights have been eroded ever since the Progressive Conservative Party took over 19 months ago.

Mr. Rossi: They are afraid of truth.

Ms. Copps: The Hon. Member is suggesting that they are afraid of truth. Quite so, they are afraid of truth, and the best evidence of this is the harassment to which was subjected the owner of a Byward market sandwich store. Mr. Speaker, it is unbelievable that the Conservatives should be so concerned about Byward market sandwiches. Why should one not have the right to sell whatever one wants to sell?

[English]

The same is true in the case of the flight attendant. The flight attendant herself did not in fact embark upon the discussion with the Conservative delegates. She made a lighthearted statement, joke or jest as we all do in our daily lives. I hope that when the time comes—

Miss Carney: You were there?

Ms. Copps: The Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources asks if I was there. No, I was not there. I am recounting events as they were recounted to me through the news media and the letter sent by the Conservative delegate. In fact, I hope that the day never comes when I cannot share a little joke with my Conservative friends. I may not agree with everything the Conservative Party does. I certainly do not agree with everything the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) does. However, from time to time, I meet Conservative Members in the elevator and I share friendly little jokes with them. That is all a part of living in a democracy and being a Canadian. We can fight like Hades here in the House of Commons, yet in the corridors, the elevators and on the grounds, we are all here together.