

Adjournment Debate

Mr. Chris Speyer (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, when this question was originally asked, it was as a result of the bomb threat at the Ottawa airport, as my hon. friend pointed out. The circumstances of that case were very peculiar, but no doubt it alerted my colleague to the larger problem of terrorism. I should like to refer to the specific facts of that case. The comments of the originator of the alleged threat were later misinterpreted. He made no remark which should or could be the subject matter of a criminal prosecution. The individual misinterpreting and passing on the so-called threat did so in an honest but mistaken belief that he had heard the first individual disclose a plan to plant a bomb on an Air Canada flight. As a result of this confusion, although it was not in any way illegal and no charge could be laid, my colleague has pointed out before in the House the tremendous expense Canadian taxpayers had to endure in order to ensure safety of the Canadian travelling public.

I listened with great interest to the Hon. Member's concern about terrorism. Nobody with any sense of wisdom cannot be apprehensive that terrorism will arrive on our shores and that we have to be prepared for it. I know the Minister of Justice (Mr. Crosbie) is concerned about it. There are provisions in the Criminal Code right now in respect of false threats and in terms of circumstances where a person passes on a false threat to blow up an airplane or such. It may very well be the penalties are not sufficient, but they are being reviewed at this moment. I give my friend the assurance that we will take his submission seriously in order that we might head off any future problems.

[Translation]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Charest): The motion to adjourn the House is now deemed to have been adopted. Accordingly, this House stands adjourned until tomorrow at 11 a.m., pursuant to Standing Order 3(1).

The House adjourned at 6.25 p.m.
