

*Oral Questions*

I must say that it took the committee a while longer to finish their work. When they tabled their final report in May of this year I took those recommendations, incorporated a great many of them into the Bill, and I have brought it forward. I may say that this Bill remains a priority with the Government.

**Mr. Waddell:** Mr. Speaker, I thought for a moment the Minister was going to call me a gentleman.

• (1440)

## MINISTER'S POSITION

**Mr. Ian Waddell (Vancouver—Kingsway):** Mr. Speaker, one reason that many groups are opposed to the Minister's Bill is her refusal to accept all-Party amendments to avoid the North-Americanization of broadcasting, for example, licensing and regulating, say, the American super channels. In light of the free trade deal would the Minister not agree we need stronger, not weaker, Canadianization provisions? And is the real reason the Minister will not accept these recommendations of all these groups in the all-Party committee is that she cannot because of that very trade deal?

**Hon. Flora MacDonald (Minister of Communications):** Mr. Speaker, I must say that the exaggeration of the Hon. Member really boggles the mind. I may just point out the fact that this Bill supports the Canadianization of the CBC to 95 per cent Canadianization in its programming. This Bill brings in a performance incentive to encourage the private broadcasters to do more and better Canadian programming than they have in the past. This Bill talks about broadcasting which must be predominately Canadian, and I would like to assure the Hon. Member that the CRTC, through its licensing of distributing agents and services, has to deal with all programs it receives. That is the way in which licensing is carried out in this country, by the regulatory body which has been set up by this Parliament to do that very thing.

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[Translation]

## HOUSE OF COMMONS

PRESENCE IN GALLERY OF MR. ALAIN DECAUX, LA  
FRANCOPHONIE MINISTER DELEGATE

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please! I am privileged to draw to the Hon. Members' attention the presence in the gallery of Mr. Alain Decaux, Minister Delegate responsible for La Francophonie.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

[English]

## THE MINISTRY

## AIR FLIGHT TO THAILAND BY MINISTER'S SPOUSE

**Hon. Bob Kaplan (York Centre):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Deputy Prime Minister. I want to ask him whether the Prime Minister is aware that the wife and daughter of the Minister for International Trade took a free one week trip to Thailand last month provided by Thai Airlines, and whether this is acceptable behaviour of the Ministry.

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister for International Trade):** Mr. Speaker, in my 23 years of political life this is the first occasion on which any person in political life has tried to attack my wife or my daughter or to insinuate they behaved in some improper way.

In July, at the invitation of the Thai International Airways and/or the Government of Thailand, I was invited to go on an inaugural flight from Toronto to Bangkok. I decided not to go, having other responsibilities. My wife was invited and my daughter. They went. They went in the company of a Minister from the Government of the Province of Quebec. A Minister from the Government of Ontario went. The Mayor of Metropolitan Toronto went. Other persons in the private sector went. There was no impropriety whatsoever in them going at the invitation of the Thai Government.

I am very surprised that the Hon. Member would bring this up in this way, without any advance notice to me he was going to drag my family up on the floor of the House of Commons. It is not the first time he has done that. If that is his standard of behaviour, so be it.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Kaplan:** I am not suggesting that the conflict of interest guidelines—

**Some Hon. Members:** Cheap! Cheap!

**Mr. Kaplan:** I am not suggesting that the conflict of interest guidelines apply to a wife and daughter—

**Some Hon. Members:** Sit down!

**Mr. Kaplan:** —but I was suggesting in my question that they apply to the Minister.

**An Hon. Member:** Shame!

**Mr. Kaplan:** But the day after he refers to the Leader of the Opposition as a Nazi, a criminal, and a liar, I do not think I have anything to apologize for to him.