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AIRLINE INDUSTRY

Mr. John Manley (Ottawa South): Mr. Speaker, today hundreds of Air Canada employees marched on Parliament Hill to show their disapproval with the government's handling of the airline industry.

Their presence here today is a vivid illustration of the complete failure of this government to provide policy leadership in one of Canada's most strategically important industries.

As a result of the government's inaction the airlines, their employees, and Canada's ability to compete globally have been put at risk. No other national government would be content to sit on its hands if its airline industry was going through the turmoil now happening in Canada.

Rather than waiting, the government should provide some much needed policy direction about the future of our airline industry. If the government does not know what to do, at least let the transport committee of this House proceed with an investigation into the state of our airline industry.

The chairman of this committee refuses to call a meeting to deal with this issue while Canada's airline industry is at peril.

An hon. member: Shame.

Mr. Manley: Like a group of Neros, this government and its members play their fiddles while vital Canadian interests are at risk.

THE ENVIRONMENT

Hon. Chas. L. Caccia (Davenport): Mr. Speaker, the Government of Canada must be taken to task for its weak response in Rio de Janeiro to climate change.

Yes, a commitment was made two years ago to stabilize carbon dioxide emissions at 1990 levels by the year 2000. But today, Canada has yet to produce a plan spelling out how we will reach that goal.

Canada also lost the opportunity to play a constructive role by not supporting the initiative of numerous nations including Germany, the Netherlands, Denmark, and Australia and commit to a carbon dioxide reduction program beyond the year 2000.

Tributes

Canada holds the dubious distinction of emitting per capita more carbon dioxide than virtually any other nation. The Government of Canada has a responsibility to the global community and must prove it can match its rhetoric with meaningful action.

HON. HERB GRAY

THIRTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF ELECTION TO HOUSE OF COMMONS

Mr. Speaker: This is an unusual event but one that I think will meet with your acceptance and appreciation.

Since my election as your Speaker in 1986, I have thankfully not been obliged to have recourse to what is probably the most severe procedural measure available to a presiding officer, that of naming an hon. member. Yet there was bound, some day, to be an occasion when such a step would become inevitable. Today is such a day. It is my duty, therefore, to name an hon. member.

[Translation]

By this, I do not mean that I intend to use the disciplinary powers provided to the Chair by Standing Order 11 of the House of Commons. Quite the contrary. I want, on behalf of all the members of this House, to honour one of our colleagues on the day that marks the 30th anniversary of his loyal services to our institution.

[English]

I name you Herbert Gray.

Some hon. members: Hear, hear.

Some hon. members: Herb, Herb, Herb.

Mr. Speaker: You have served your country, notre pays, avec distinction, as a member of this House for 30 years.

You have successfully fought 10 consecutive general elections, in itself a remarkable tribute from the people you represent. Having been the member of Parliament for Essex West since 1962, you were sworn in as a minister in 1969, thus becoming the first Canadian federal cabinet minister of the Jewish faith. Your service in several senior cabinet posts and, more recently, in senior critics' roles in opposition, including the high office of Leader of the Opposition, is testimony to your devotion to this institution and to the country.