

*Oral Questions**[English]*

**Hon. Arthur C. Eggleton (President of the Treasury Board and Minister responsible for Infrastructure):** Mr. Speaker, of course. We intend to try to get this matter settled and intend to be an equity employer. The previous government put money into pay equity and that is a very high priority intention of this government.

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**CRIMINAL CODE**

**Mr. Paul E. Forseth (New Westminster—Burnaby):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Justice.

On May 9, 1994, in response to a question from my colleague, the member for Surrey—White Rock—South Langley, the minister told this House that he had urged the provincial attorneys general to more aggressively pursue the prosecution of section 85 of the Criminal Code, the extra penalty for the use of a firearm during a crime.

I wrote two letters to the minister requesting an explanation of what was said to the provinces as well as any responses received regarding section 85 but have yet to receive a reply. Will the minister advise this House in general terms about the communications he had with the provinces over section 85?

• (1150)

**Hon. Allan Rock (Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada):** Mr. Speaker, the communications I have had with the provinces are those I have described. I have written to my provincial and territorial counterparts and have drawn their attention to the fact that section 85(1) is there to deal with a problem of broad concern, which is the use of firearms in the commission of offences.

I have encouraged them to see that that section is used when the facts permit and that plea arrangements are not entered into which result in such charges being dropped in appropriate cases.

**Mr. Paul E. Forseth (New Westminster—Burnaby):** Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Justice stated in this House that he is contemplating further laws on guns. The emphasis seems to be government intervention with law-abiding gun owners rather than action with gun-toting criminals.

In view of the problems with section 85 of the Criminal Code can the minister indicate what he will do to make it a priority to fight criminals who have guns before he pursues a policy that interferes with law abiding gun owners?

**Hon. Allan Rock (Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada):** Mr. Speaker, the government has under consideration a wide variety of options which have been developed through caucus to be brought forward in the form of specific proposals. These will be intended and will be fashioned to deal with the criminal use of firearms. They will involve regulation

of firearms that will respect the legitimate use of rifles by hunters and by farmers.

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**ALEXANDRE MAKAR**

**Mr. John Loney (Edmonton North):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration.

On June 7 I raised the question of the plight of Alexandre Makar of Edmonton, Alberta. Can the minister inform the House of the status of Mr. Makar's case?

**Hon. Sergio Marchi (Minister of Citizenship and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, some two weeks ago the member and other colleagues of ours from Edmonton brought to the attention of this House the question of the Ukrainian individual who had certainly made a case for a compassionate review in terms of his landing and his medical inadmissibility.

As a result of that we opened up a line of communication with the province of Alberta as well as the province of Saskatchewan. I am happy to report that as of this morning through that the province of Alberta has accepted the case.

It shows that when provincial and federal governments do work together and involve the community that first raised the question of compassion, we can make decisions that both favour the individual circumstances and at the same time uphold the rule of the law.

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*[Translation]***RADAR CONTROL**

**Mr. Philippe Paré (Louis-Hébert):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport. There are two areas in Quebec, namely the North Shore and the Magdalen Islands, where airport control services in French are only available after an 8 to 15 minute delay, because they come under the jurisdiction of the Moncton control unit, which provides regular services in English only. Both these areas could be adequately served by the Quebec City radar control unit which the government is going to close down.

My question is this: How can the minister, who claims to be concerned with air safety, justify his statement to the effect that bilingual services can be provided from a bilingual province such as New Brunswick just as well as from anywhere else in Quebec, when the regular service provided from Moncton is only in English?

**Hon. Douglas Young (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, in any air navigation system, there are always areas where communication in one official language or the other, or both, is difficult. What we are saying, and I want to reassure my hon. colleague, is that anybody who uses air navigation services in Canada knows that they are exceptional and that they compare well with any other system in the world. If, as my hon. colleague is claiming, there are gaps here or there, we will try to see to them. But I do not like the fact that he is trying to create a red