

*Oral Questions*

● (1440)

Now we are faced with a situation in which the Prime Minister's word to the House is being denied once again. He is once again breaking a promise to the Canadian people giving them a right to participate in this decision.

The Parliamentary Secretary has not answered. Considering the terrible delay in providing a final document, is the Government prepared to give the Commons committee an extension of its time so that it can hold hearings based upon the final document? Will it set the signing date back so that Canadians can participate? That is the point of these questions. Will you give Canadians the right to participate in making this decision before you sign this country away?

**Mr. Speaker:** The Chair hesitates at all times to interrupt any Hon. Member when asking a question. But I must ask Hon. Members not to use personal pronouns in addressing other Hon. Members. The reason is very clear. It leads to disorder. I would ask experienced Members especially to keep that in mind.

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I would simply invite an experienced Member of the House who has been here for some time to compare the consultation in this particular process with anything that has taken place before. There were 15 SAGIT'S created that involved consultation with the industry across the country. There were nine First Ministers' meetings, some lasting up to eight or nine hours, to discuss the matter.

**Mr. Cassidy:** All in secret.

**Mr. Mulroney:** There were full-day debates in the House of Commons—

**Mr. McCurdy:** What about the people?

**Mr. Mulroney:**—and ample debate at committees and in Question Period. There were parliamentary committees of the Ontario Government and the Quebec Government. There had been prior consultation and analysis in Royal Commissions such as the McDonald Royal Commission.

**Mr. Gauthier:** Still no document.

**Mr. Cassidy:** You do not care about the people.

**Mr. Mulroney:** There will be further opportunity to discuss—

**Mr. Cassidy:** What about the people?

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

**An Hon. Member:** Shut up!

**Mr. Cassidy:** What about the people, Mr. Prime Minister?

**An Hon. Member:** You do not represent the people, Cassidy.

**Mr. Grisé:** Where is your majority?

**Mr. Speaker:** The Right Hon. Prime Minister.

**Mr. Mulroney:** Mr. Speaker, as I was saying, this is a pattern of consultation with the Canadian people through parliamentary committees, through debates, through their Members of Parliament, that I believe is probably unprecedented in its thoroughness. There can be further debate and further consultation as time goes on.

To put it into perspective, I invite my hon. friends who are being so critical of this degree of consultation to compare it with the last time the federal Government concluded a major trading initiative, which was 23 years ago when the Government of Canada concluded the Auto Pact. The Liberals concluded the Auto Pact without so much as a "by your leave" to the Government of Ontario and without a single reference to the Parliament of Canada. There is the difference between our approach of consulting with the people, and the Liberals and the NDP who cared not for it to be raised.

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**AIR SAFETY****ICAO REQUIREMENT FOR CHECKING BAGGAGE**

**Mr. Les Benjamin (Regina West):** Mr. Speaker, I have a series of questions for the Minister of Transport. He and his predecessors have repeatedly avowed that there will be no compromise in safety and security in air or any other mode of transportation. I wrote to the Minister on November 5 and gave him five cases of airlines violating the ICAO requirement for baggage sequencing. I have seven more cases which I will give to him.

Employees are being put through the wringer by being subjected to fingerprinting, credit rating, loyalties, police records and questioning on sexual proclivities, all of which applies to their spouses as well. If the Minister's security is so good under ICAO, will he explain the case of Air Canada flight 870 on November 13, Mirabel to Charles de Gaulle, when a bomb threat was received after the flight took off and the decision was made for the flight not to stop in Gander? Who made the decision and why did someone not overrule it?

What about the case of the Toronto to Puerto Vallarta flight, one passenger was a no-show, bags not removed. I have seven more for him.

**Mr. Speaker:** Of course the Minister can answer if he wishes. I point out that the Hon. Member is getting into a series of detailed questions that, strictly speaking, might more properly be placed on the Order Paper. However, the Hon. Minister may answer if he wishes.

**Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, my answer has to be that I am surprised the hon.