

*Adjournment Debate*

there is a certain degree of hypocrisy in complaining about increasing taxes when we are trying to act in a responsible manner.

With respect to the specific question regarding the handicapped, I point out to the Hon. Member that it was this Government which broadened the definition of "disabled". That was done in the 1985 Budget to include all severely disabled Canadians, including those who are markedly restricted in their activities of daily living as a result of blindness, diseases of the circulatory system, mental disorders, diseases of the musculoskeletal system and connective tissues, diseases of the nervous system, sense organs and the respiratory system. Previously, in order to qualify for the disability deduction, an individual would have to be blind for a year or substantially confined to a bed or a wheelchair throughout that year.

● (1815)

The new definition is to be administered by the Department of National Health and Welfare and comes into effect in the 1986 taxation year. The total population expected to be eligible for the disability certificate is 185,000, up from the 165,000 before the May, 1985 Budget. I think this is an incredible step forward for the disabled and shows the Government's commitment to the disabled. I would point out that the cost of the \$250 increase in the disability deduction is \$10 million per taxation year.

CRIMINAL CODE—BOMB THREAT HOAXES—REQUEST FOR  
STIFFER PENALTIES

**Mr. Alan Redway (York East):** Mr. Speaker, you will recall, no doubt, as well as I do, that a few short weeks ago in January of this year, there was an alleged bomb threat at the Ottawa airport, the Toronto international airport and the two airports in Montreal. This bomb threat caused a tremendous amount of additional security to be put in place at all four of those airports and cost the taxpayers something close to \$1 million in extra security costs. That occurred just a short time ago and since that time, there has been a tendency for all Canadians to forget the fact that there was this bomb threat hoax and to forget that from time to time we have been subjected to bomb threats and terrorist activities. We tend to think that those things happen in other countries, perhaps in the Middle East, Asia or Africa, but that they do not happen right here at home. In fact, as you are quite well aware, Mr. Speaker, they do happen right here in Canada and they happen to our fellow Canadians.

Over the last 15 years or so, there has been a very large number of terrorist activities occurring right here in Canada or to our fellow Canadian citizens. Back in 1972, letter bombs were sent from Amsterdam to the Israeli legations here in Ottawa and also in Montreal. The same year, four other letter bombs were sent to Canadian Jews in Toronto. In 1973, another letter bomb was sent to a rabbi here in Canada. In 1976, two armed terrorists bound for the Olympic Games were arrested by Canadian police. In 1979, two Canadians were injured by bombs which exploded in Rome, Italy.

There were three terrorist activities affecting Canadians or Canada in 1982. A Turkish diplomat was shot and wounded here in Ottawa. The same year, the Turkish military attaché here in Ottawa was murdered. Two industrial plants, one in Toronto and one in British Columbia, were bombed.

Last year, there were five different terrorist activities involving Canada or Canadians. A Canadian security guard was killed at the Turkish Embassy here in Ottawa. As well, there was a bomb threat which severely affected the Toronto subway. It has now been confirmed by an inquest held in India that the Air India flight was destroyed by a bomb that killed some 329 passengers, 90 of whom were Canadian children. Last year as well, two people were killed in Tokyo as a result of a bomb that exploded after it was found in baggage that was taken off a Canadian Pacific flight.

● (1820)

There was also the killing of Valinda June Leonard and her 16-month old son from Alberta by commandos who stormed the hijacked Air Egypt flight. Just this year, in addition to the case which I cited earlier, there was an attack on the Romanian consulate in Montreal by an armed gunman.

How do we deal with the terrorist activities which have been going on in our country? I was very pleased to hear the Solicitor General of Canada (Mr. Beatty) announce the formation of the anti-terrorist squad of the RCMP. Apparently it is to be a crack commando team which will be under police control, not under military control. It will be used to rescue hostages. Also, there was an indication from the Solicitor General that he would be beefing up security at our embassies, consulates and airports. At the same time, he indicated that Canada was making it quite clear that there would be no deals, no pay-offs, no ransom or no exchange of hostages with terrorists. As well he indicated that he intended to discuss with the media the question of ensuring that terrorists did not receive any special treatment or special publicity as a result of their activities.

In addition, I was very pleased to hear the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) come out with sanctions against Libya after the attacks at the Rome and Vienna airports. However, other things can be done as well. The North America Jewish Students Network in Canada has suggested the establishment of a parliamentary committee and the idea of barring terrorists and their organizations from the country. Those are good suggestions but, as I indicated to the Minister of Justice (Mr. Crosbie) on February 4, I think that we should also review the Criminal Code, look at new penalties, look at new offences and look at the whole idea of restitution. At that time the Minister of Justice said that he agreed with me and that he thought we should be doing something about it.

I fervently hope that the Parliamentary Secretary will shed some light on the whole situation tonight and tell us that there will be some new penalties, some new offences, and that the whole question of restitution will be considered seriously within the context of terrorist activities, bomb threats and bomb hoaxes.