

*Points of Order***ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE****AIR-INDIA CRASH INVESTIGATION—ALLEGED PRIOR BOMB
THREAT**

Mr. Iain Angus (Thunder Bay—Atikokan): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Solicitor General. Will he confirm *The Journal* report last night which indicated that one of the tapes that was erased contained wiretap evidence indicating that there was in fact a threat against Air-India made a number of weeks, if not months, prior to the actual bombing? Will he confirm that that was on one of the tapes which was erased?

Hon. James Kelleher (Solicitor General of Canada): Mr. Speaker, as I stated on a number of occasions today in the House, there is an active, ongoing criminal investigation and I am not going to say anything that would jeopardize the successful completion of that investigation.

Mr. Speaker: On one question, the Hon. Member for Montreal—Sainte-Marie.

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[Translation]

SHIPBUILDING**AWARDING OF CONTRACTS TO QUEBEC SHIPYARDS—
GOVERNMENT POSITION**

Mr. Jean-Claude Malépart (Montreal—Sainte-Marie): Mr. Speaker, my question will be very short. In today's *Le Devoir* one can read: "In a letter from Michel Côté to Daniel Johnson, Ottawa had promised huge contracts for Quebec shipyards". My question is very simple: The three Quebec shipyards are now facing bankruptcy. Is the Minister of Supply and Services prepared to honour his commitment to award huge contracts to Quebec shipyards? If so, what contracts will Quebec be awarded?

Hon. Michel Côté (Minister of Supply and Services): Strangely enough, Mr. Speaker, this question originates from a Party which was in office when three Quebec refineries shut down, which never did support the petrochemical industry, which took its own sweet time to endorse the drugs bill, but which today seeks to tell us that we ought to defend the interests of Quebecers. Mr. Speaker, the shipyards issue was one of our first priorities in 1984. We awarded contracts, we made sure the shipyardss would survive, and we will continue to look after the interests of Quebecers. We will award contracts and make sure that due consideration has been given to fair competition, quality, and regional disparities.

[English]

Mr. Prud'homme: Mr. Speaker, earlier the Right Hon. Secretary of State for External Affairs made some comments which were certainly directed to me. However, in all fairness to him and to you, Sir, I should like to reserve my right to raise a question of privilege at the first opportunity after I have read the exact text of what he meant when he tried to imply something. That really should not have been done in the House, especially coming from an ex-Prime Minister of Canada who is now the Minister responsible for foreign affairs.

I should like to reserve my right to do that tomorrow after I have seen the exact text in *Hansard*.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker: I thank the Hon. Member for Saint-Denis (Mr. Prud'homme). I took notice of his question of privilege.

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[English]

POINTS OF ORDER**ATTENDANCE AT COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

Mr. Jim Fulton (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, this morning the Standing Committee on Fisheries and Oceans sat from nine o'clock until one o'clock and heard four sets of witnesses from British Columbia.

I would like some direction from you, Mr. Speaker, on the point of order I would like to raise. The Government side never turned up enough Members at any time for the committee to conduct its business or to order an extended run of the minutes because of the importance of the issue to British Columbia, Quebec, Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia.

My second point is that we were not able to move or pass any motions in relation to the tabling of documents or evidence. I am just wondering, under a point of order, whether or not Your Honour could advise Members of the House how it is possible to conduct business when the Government will not turn out its own Members.

● (1510)

Mr. Speaker: the Hon. Member for Skeena has raised on a point of order certain concerns that he has relating to activities in a committee this morning. First, I should commend the Hon. Member for Skeena (Mr. Fulton) for not having raised it under a question of privilege.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: However, I think the point has been made. It is not a matter with which the Chair can interfere and I suggest that now that the point is within the knowledge of both