

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Wednesday, January 26, 1983

The House met at 2 p.m.

Madam Speaker: Order.

● (1405)

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STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S.O. 21

[English]

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Mr. David Berger (Laurier): Madam Speaker, I would like to read extracts from an editorial entitled "Mr. Clark Goes Overboard" in this morning's *Montreal Gazette*. Commenting on a recent *Maclean's* interview with the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Clark), the *Gazette* states:

Tough political criticism is a fair, indeed necessary, part of democratic debate. Outright untruths, however, are beyond the pale.

The editorial continues:

Mr. Clark says that in the referendum campaign Mr. Trudeau "lied" to Quebecers.

Mr. Clark: That is correct. He did lie.

Mr. Berger: The editorial quoted Mr. Clark as stating:

He told them there would be a more flexible federalism . . . That wasn't the truth. He brought in, instead, a unitary constitution.

The *Gazette* continues:

But Mr. Trudeau did not lie to Quebecers. He promised them that he would start to work immediately after the referendum to achieve constitutional change; he did just that. He said a No vote would be interpreted as a vote to increase liberties; the constitutional charter of rights does that.

Mr. Trudeau did *not* promise vast increases in provincial power . . . It is thus no surprise that the reformed constitution did not include every item on the provinces' shopping list for expanded powers.

Mr. Hnatyshyn: Author?

Mr. Berger: The editorial continues to state:

Mr. Clark further suggests that Mr. Trudeau has given us a "unitary constitution." This is a preposterous assertion, one which Mr. Clark unfortunately has made several times.

Mr. Clark: And will make again.

Mr. Berger: The editorial continues:

Nothing, no contortion of logic or dose of skepticism, can see in this "a unitary constitution." Mr. Clark is not a stupid man.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Berger: The article continues:

It follows that he knows he is not speaking the truth when he makes such allegations—

AIR TRANSPORT

LICENSING OF NORTHERN COMMERCIAL OPERATORS

Mr. Dave Nickerson (Western Arctic): Madam Speaker, the regulations and procedures respecting the licensing of commercial aircraft operators by the Air Transport Committee of the Canadian Transport Commission do not make sense when applied to small operators in remote areas of Northern Canada.

The highly complex and legalistic licensing system may be suitable for Air Canada, CP Air and some of the regional carriers which could afford to dedicate the services of expert personnel to regulatory matters while the rest of the people get on with the serious and productive business of running an airline. In the North, however, most operations are small and must be flexible in order to meet rapidly changing markets in a region where frequently the only means of transportation is by air.

The owner-operators are fiercely independent and have little time for red tape. They are often not averse to telling Ottawa bureaucrats, and even the Minister of Transport (Mr. Pepin), precisely what they think. It is seldom flattering.

Mr. Pepin: Think about Dubin.

Mr. Nickerson: The present licensing system is slow, unresponsive to public needs, encourages chiselling, and turns healthy competition by way of superior equipment, improved routes and services and lower prices, into back-biting complaints and—

Madam Speaker: Order, please.

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TRADE

FINANCING OF CANADIAN EXPORT BUSINESS

Mr. Stanley Hudecki (Hamilton West): Madam Speaker, it has come to my attention through the Hamilton and District Chamber of Commerce that exporters of capital goods in my riding of Hamilton West, like most Canadian exporters, are in