

## S.O. 22

The second point I want to make is public awareness. Not long ago, at a cocktail party in Quebec City, I was very pleased to see that thanks to all the publicity about this operation, many business people had come by taxi. The organizers of this project are very serious-minded and always work in co-operation with one of Quebec's youth organizations, in this case, the "Rouge et Or" swimming team at Laval University, the local municipal police, in this case the Quebec City police, and a radio station with high ratings, in this case CHRC. The operation is part of our fight against drunken driving, and I may refer the House to Bill C-19. Mr. Speaker, I would urge other regions in Canada to do likewise.

I want to congratulate the sponsors, the volunteers and the participants in this operation—

**Mr. Speaker:** I regret to inform the Hon. Member that his time has expired.

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● (1410)

[English]

## AIR TRANSPORT

PRESERVATION OF SAFETY STANDARDS IN DEREGULATION  
PROCESS

**Mr. Ross Belsher (Fraser Valley East):** Mr. Speaker, all Canadians mourn the recent tragedy of the crash of the DC-8 at Gander, Newfoundland. At the moment the Canadian Aviation Safety Board, the U.S. National Transportation Safety Board and the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration are working together to determine the cause of this disaster. To date, the cause has not been found.

In wake of such a tragedy the Opposition have insinuated that with the Government's current proposals for economic regulatory reform of Canada's transportation sector, many more aviation accidents will occur. I find such insinuations morally reprehensible.

The Government will make a lot of changes to our regulatory framework but it will never allow safety standards for transportation services to be sacrificed for economic expediency. For the past several weeks the parliamentary Standing Committee on Transport has listened to the recommendations and concerns of many interested parties. During its entire lengthy proceedings, the committee stressed to all parties that safety standards would not be debated.

Canada's high level of safety standards is being maintained and has been enhanced. An example of this is the Government's passage of Bill C-36, an Act to amend the Aeronautics Act. As the Minister of Transport stated in the preface of his policy paper entitled *Freedom to Move*: "I would like to indicate unequivocally that the Government will neither propose nor permit any economic regulatory reform that might be detrimental to safety standards".

I hope that certain members of the Opposition who have an inclination for distorting the truth will take heed of the Minister's words and not try to induce panic into the Canadian public regarding transportation safety standards.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

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## INCOME TAX

## EFFECT OF CHANGE ON MINERS IN NORTHERN ONTARIO

**Mr. Keith Penner (Cochrane-Superior):** Mr. Speaker, I bring to the attention of the House an unfair situation involving my constituents in the Hemlo Gold find area of northern Ontario. It is an unfairness created as a consequence of the May 23 Budget.

The employees of the Teck-Corona Mine, near Marathon, as a result of the May 23 Budget have been divided into two groups: one group of 51 employees are forced to pay tax on a benefit derived from the company, a benefit in the form of a housing loan; at the same time another group of 49 employees with the same company will be receiving a non-taxable benefit from the same type of loan. This is all because of an income tax change which was included in the last federal Budget.

The company has been hiring its staff over the past year and a half. Therefore, many employees bought their houses before May 23. When Teck-Corona suggested that the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson) allow all housing loans to be exempt as of May 23, the Minister stated in a letter that an extension of this kind would represent an additional tax expenditure and would add significantly to the deficit. I doubt the validity of that assertion.

More important, we have a new tax measure which creates inequity among employees working for the same company and living in the very same community.

Therefore I ask that the Minister of Finance immediately reconsider his initial response. Let there be a grandfather clause in this tax relief measure.

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## COMMUNICATIONS

## BELL CANADA—LOCAL CALLING CHARGES

**Mr. Stan Darling (Parry Sound-Muskoka):** Mr. Speaker, recently there have been some rumours about Bell Canada proposing a charge for local telephone calls. I have been assured by both Bell Canada and the Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission that there is no such proposal in the works.

Following press reports implying that local charges may apply in the event of deregulation, many of my constituents and others across the country have approached me with deep concern. Our senior citizens depend on local calling in emergencies, and for companionship during lonely hours. Children