

Oral Questions

[English]

REQUEST FOR MEASURES TO ENHANCE AIR SAFETY

Mr. Iain Angus (Thunder Bay—Atikokan): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question. It is incredible that a Government that was warned by the Opposition during the debate on freedom to move, during the debate on Bill C-18, that what it was doing would make travel less safe, should proceed as it did. The Government's own Department said the same thing.

What will the Minister do in a concrete way to make air travel safer in this country?

[Translation]

Hon. Benoît Bouchard (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I tried to explain to my colleague—and I think that the Hon. Member for Thunder Bay—Atikokan is acting honestly—what resources we had available for aviation safety. I should tell him that since 1984, the Government has, among other things, invested billions of dollars in upgrading the radar control system. We in Canada will have one of the most “state-of-the-art” systems in the world, with the best technology. We now have extremely qualified pilots, controllers and other personnel. Once again, Mr. Speaker, as I have always said, I repeat that air safety exists in Canada, but I also said that we have met everyone who could help us improve it and we will meet with them again. So, once more, I repeat that air safety exists in Canada, as my friend very well knows.

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[English]

HOUSE OF COMMONS

PRESENCE IN GALLERY OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE
REPUBLIC OF COSTA RICA

Mr. Speaker: I wish to draw to the attention of Members the presence in the gallery of His Excellency Dr. Oscar Arias Sanchez, President of the Republic of Costa Rica.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

PRESENCE IN GALLERY OF MANITOBA MINISTER OF
HEALTH

Mr. Speaker: I also wish to bring to the attention of Members the presence in the gallery of the Hon. Donald Orchard, Minister of Health for the Province of Manitoba.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

ERDA—FUNDING IN ATLANTIC CANADA

Mr. Ron MacDonald (Dartmouth): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister. It concerns the Speech from the Throne.

After four months of uncertainty, the people of Atlantic Canada and, indeed, all regions of Canada waited for the Government to state quite clearly its full commitment to regional development programs. But, on Monday, after 11 pages of rhetoric and thousands of empty words, there were four letters that the people of Atlantic Canada were waiting for but did not find. Those four letters are ERDA, Economic and Regional Development programs.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: I would ask the Hon. Member to put his question.

Mr. MacDonald: While I have the attention of the Government, Mr. Speaker, I suggest perhaps it would add in that word in the next Speech from the Throne, and maybe the Prime Minister could answer a question concerning its absence.

Will the Prime Minister please give the assurance to this House, to the people of Atlantic Canada, and to the Premiers of Atlantic Canada that his Government will continue to pursue the ERDA process and that he will immediately remove the freeze which his Ministers have put on that program?

Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion and Minister of State for Science and Technology): Mr. Speaker, while the Hon. Member was preparing his question he ought have been in the House where he would have heard the Prime Minister say, just a couple of hours ago, that the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency for the Atlantic region, the Western Diversification Office for Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia, FEDNOR for northern Ontario, and our programs for Québec will all have their funding continued for the next five-year planning period.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

GOVERNMENT COMMITMENT

Mr. Ron MacDonald (Dartmouth): Mr. Speaker, when the Prime Minister was in Nova Scotia and announced the formation of the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency, he took great pains to tell the people of Atlantic Canada that this was new money and it was in addition to established programs funding, such as the Economic and Regional Development Agreements on which Atlantic Canada, northern Ontario and western Canada depend.