

Mr. Speaker, I know the Hon. Member for Papineau very well. I think he should have refrained from taking part in this debate because he is a Parliamentarian who knows the procedures of the House. He has been a Minister. He should have refused to get on the bandwagon with the Hon. Member for Hamilton East (Ms. Copps) on this motion. Mr. Speaker, I am truly appalled, that is the only word for it, because after all, we do not have that many Opposition days. These days are an opportunity for the Opposition to raise matters of importance. Not so! They have decided to hold a shamelessly partisan debate at the expense of Mrs. Corrado. Because the point here is . . . they all sound terribly virtuous, but are they practising what they preach? I have a question for the Hon. Member. The Liberals and the New Democrats are doing all this at the expense of this young woman, Mrs. Corrado. They are indulging in petty politics, because they are certainly not interested in rights and freedoms. I say that as far as freedom is concerned, we all have our rights and freedoms in Canada.

And this is a regulation of a Crown corporation that the Liberals themselves set up twenty years ago when they were in power. I am referring to the regulations of our Crown corporations that prohibit this type of disparaging remarks about a Government. We must respect the Government of Canada. If employees of all Crown corporations started criticizing governments right and left, it would be a mad house.

Mr. Speaker, my question for the Hon. Member is as follows: Why isn't he speaking today? An important opposition day and what do the New Democrats . . . Pornography, child prostitution, those are the important topics. Eight thousand jobs were lost in Alberta as a result of the National Energy Program. That is what you should talk about on Opposition Days. Come up with some constructive ideas instead of playing politics at the expense of a young woman who admitted she had not expected to be the subject of a debate, and who is embarrassed at having her name used in this way.

Mr. Speaker, I would like an answer.

**Mr. Ouellet:** Mr. Speaker, I would like to tell the hon. Member that the choice of the debate today is very important. The New Democratic Party decided to use the incident involving Miss Toni Corrado to speak about the principle of free speech guaranteed by the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

I find it quite shocking that the Hon. Member, independantly from the party line, would not at least feel some solidarity with this flight attendant who earns a decent living and who is the victim of oppression. Is the oppressor Air Canada or the Conservative Government? I do not know. I did not have the opportunity to check the records in detail. However, I find it shocking that a woman of some thirty years old, because she told someone on a plane that she found the Conservative Government incompetent, would now find herself suspended without pay for 30 days. It seems to me that this is like using an elephant gun on mosquitoes.

### Supply

The Hon. Member should instinctively defend all the women who are oppressed or in a difficult position in Canada, because we know how difficult it is for women in Canada to obtain equal pay for equal work and how difficult it is for them to be respected and recognized in the workplace.

Here is a case of a working woman who is being mistreated because she had the misfortune of making a political comment. I would have liked the Hon. Member to defend this woman instead of playing petty politics.

[English]

**Ms. McDonald:** Mr. Speaker, a number of misunderstandings have come out in this debate. The idea that it is trivial that we should be discussing freedom of expression is absolutely disgraceful. The Minister for the "underfunding of science" suggested that the NDP or this woman was looking for publicity. That is also preposterous. Both of those ideas are absolutely preposterous.

In fact, Ms. Corrado did not want to make this a public case.

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Ms. McDonald:** Before calling the Leader of the NDP (Mr. Broadbent) Ms. Corrado called the Prime Minister's (Mr. Mulroney) Office. If the matter had been taken seriously, she would have been quite happy to withdraw all public attention from it. There would have been no public scandal about this matter if action had been taken. It is quite clear that this has resulted from the incompetence of the Prime Minister's Office in not recognizing the importance of freedom of expression. The Government is in this embarrassment because the Prime Minister's Office did not recognize it as important.

**Mr. Oberle:** You are the only one embarrassed.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order, please. Could we allow the Hon. Member to continue with her statement please.

● (1750)

**Ms. McDonald:** No one was seeking publicity.

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Ms. McDonald:** A flight attendant was looking for justice. She was looking to exercise her right of freedom of expression. She went through the normal channels and was denied that right. She went to the Prime Minister's Office, the Office of the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Turner), and the Office of the Leader of the NDP (Mr. Broadbent). When she was unable to get any action from the Prime Minister's Office, she then went public. She tried the other avenues. She was not seeking publicity, she was seeking justice and exercising her rights under the Charter.

[Translation]

**Mr. Ouellet:** Mr. Speaker, I cannot help saying that what our colleague just said in this House is quite true. That