

*Oral Questions*

The hon. member will recall that the CRTC called a moratorium because it would imply a deletion of commercials on cable if advertising for alcohol were to be prohibited. So we had a moratorium on the matter of deleting commercials and that is why the situation is very different from off-air broadcasting.

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**ABORTION**

## FUNDING OF ABORTION CLINICS

**Mr. Benno Friesen (Surrey-White Rock):** Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Prime Minister who, with his usual extraordinary perceptiveness, pointed out that only God and parents can create children. However, abortion clinics take those lives away, some of them on the advice of groups funded by the federal government.

I would like to ask the Prime Minister whether he is willing to re-examine the funding policy instituted by the previous minister of national health and welfare and take away some of the money that has brought about high abortion statistics in this country.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member is continuing another representation. The hon. member for Hamilton West.

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**AIR TRANSPORT**

## FACILITIES FOR HANDICAPPED TRAVELLERS

**Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Transport. I should think he now has at hand a letter from Mr. Al Oakie, executive vice-president of the Hamilton Automobile Club, regarding the treatment of handicapped travellers at Canadian airport terminals. If Your Honour will be very patient and allow me a couple of seconds, I shall read from that letter as follows:

● (1202)

Up until recently, handicapped people travelling in wheelchairs, etc., were assigned an attendant to assist them to the aircraft and off the aircraft. We understand that this has now been changed and such travellers must have a companion to take care of them.

I hope the Minister of Transport can advise us that this is not the policy and that he will ensure such restraint is not practiced on the backs of the handicapped. I hope he can give me the assurance that this is not happening and that it will not happen in the future.

**Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, I do not have that letter at hand but I will certainly be glad to look at it. I think the hon. member will agree that this is really a representation with regard to how airlines should conduct themselves. It would ordinarily be their responsibility to see to

[Mrs. Sauv .]

the comforts and needs of passengers approaching and boarding aircraft. Therefore, it is in no way a matter for the Department of Transport or government policy but, rather, that of airlines. But I will look into the matter in that way.

I should say to the hon. member that I have received many letters from associations concerned about the handicapped, and they have been very complimentary about the persistent way in which Transport Canada in particular, and this government in general, is providing facilities for handicapped persons in its buildings and in its transportation.

**Mr. Alexander:** I appreciate the answer given by the minister, but I would like an assurance from him, notwithstanding that he just said this is the role of the airline companies, that he will not tolerate this practice and that it is neither wanted nor acceptable, I think the handicapped want to know that we are not attempting to impose restraint on their backs. Surely the minister can show some sympathy in this regard.

**Mr. Lang:** Mr. Speaker, I have shown sympathy, indeed, by my emphasis on the fact that wherever we in the government or in my department are involved, we provide essentially for the needs of the handicapped. I demonstrate that in action. What I am not prepared to do is to accept a generalization, or even the allegation the hon. member is making, which presumably he is making on the basis of one letter with regard to one incident and it might apply to one company or more.

Notwithstanding his sympathy for the handicapped, which I share, I think he should have a set of standards which is not simply to indict all companies without first investigating all the facts. I will certainly want to investigate the facts.

**Mr. Alexander:** This is the case at Canadian air terminals.

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**POINT OF ORDER**

## MR. FRIESEN—QUERY DURING QUESTION PERIOD

**Mr. Benno Friesen (Surrey-White Rock):** Mr. Speaker, my point of order has to do with your ruling a minute ago with respect to my question. While I respect your ruling, sir, I want to point out to you that my question was materially different from the others that had been raised because it had to do with the funding policies of the federal government, and the others have not raised that issue with regard to abortion clinics. The Minister of State for Federal-Provincial Relations (Mr. Lalonde) was rising to answer my question.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member misunderstood if he concluded that I set the question aside because it was the same as the ones before. I indicated that he was continuing a representation. The difficulty with the question was that it was essentially a representation that funding in respect of certain groups be withdrawn. I regard that as a representation as opposed to a question. The hon. member may want to think about it and perhaps rephrase the approach to the matter in the form of a question as opposed to a representation.