

Surely the role of the Canadian government is to put Canada first and help Canadians in trouble abroad. The Canadian government is all they have.

I ask the minister, in view of the strong reaction from my riding and from other parts of Canada to her decision, and the indication today that members from all parties on the justice committee want to re-examine the case, that she refer the facts to the justice committee and keep an open mind about asking for their release in the future.

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#### CANADIAN WOMEN'S ICE HOCKEY TEAM

**Mrs. Barbara Sparrow (Calgary Southwest)** Mr. Speaker, congratulations to our women's hockey team on their medal-winning performance at the 1992 women's world hockey championships that were held in Finland.

In an exciting final game on Sunday, Canada beat the U.S. team eight to zero. This is Team Canada's second straight win at these championships which had its debut here in Ottawa in 1990. It makes them the only team to hold the world title in women's hockey to date.

I look forward to seeing women's hockey included in the Winter Olympics of 1998. Meanwhile, I am sure all parliamentarians and all Canadians join me in applauding the achievements of Team Canada's players and coaches, as well as wishing them all the best in the future.

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#### NATIONAIR

**Mr. Gilbert Parent (Welland—St. Catharines—Thorold):** Mr. Speaker, for some time a work conflict has existed between Nationair and several hundred flight attendants who have been without a regular pay cheque since November 1991.

I have spoken to the president of Nationair, Mr. Obadia, and to representatives of the union. It seems to me that they both want a fair settlement.

Nationair flight attendants are mainly female although there are some male workers. There is a great concern about having them return to work soon. A mediator was appointed. Recently, he presented his report to the Minister of Labour.

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I urge the minister to do all he can to bring about an end to the present work difficulties at Nationair. If possible, I would request that he make the mediator's findings public.

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#### ONTARIO GOVERNMENT SPENDING

**Mr. Ross Stevenson (Durham):** Mr. Speaker, Ontario's NDP government cries foul while trying to blame its own wanton ineptness on Ottawa.

But audited accounts clearly prove the total dollar value of federal transfers to Queen's Park have increased every year since 1984. In fact, during this period average federal transfers to Ontario went up 6.1 per cent each year, while those to other provinces averaged only 5.5 per cent.

Meanwhile, Ontario government spending has shot up 10 per cent each year, while federally we have held such increases to about one-third of that at 3.9 per cent.

Two successive Ontario governments have been on a spending rampage, and tomorrow Ontario taxpayers will have to pay.

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#### SENATE REFORM

**Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Winnipeg South Centre):** Mr. Speaker, the constitutional affairs minister indicated that we are making great progress on the building blocks of a constitutional agreement and that is good news.

But at the same time he expressed doubts and uncertainty over the prospect of real Senate reform and unfortunately, once again, refused to take a strong stand in favour of a truly elected, effective and more equal Senate.

Let there be no misunderstanding. There cannot be a fair and acceptable constitutional package without serious Senate reform.

The western and Atlantic regions are willing to compromise to keep this country united, but only if the same spirit of co-operation is shown by political leaders in other regions. The only way to have a new Canada is to have an effective second chamber representing the regions and holding the executive branch accountable.