

Unlike the Liberal and New Democratic Parties, which are both well known for incompetence in fiscal matters, we in the Progressive Conservative Party believe that Canadian taxpayers should get value for their money.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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● (1420)

[Translation]

NATIVE PEOPLES

JAMES BAY-NORTHERN QUEBEC AND NORTH-EASTERN QUEBEC AGREEMENTS

Mr. Guy St-Julien (Abitibi): Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to talk about the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement, the Northeastern Quebec Agreement, and political autonomy. As you may know, the James Bay Agreement and the Northeastern Quebec Agreement are the first two over-all settlements of territorial disputes in Canada. They were signed in 1975 and 1978. These agreements are still the most wide-ranging settlements ever concluded with native peoples. They deal with all aspects of Northeastern Quebec economic, social and political development.

The agreements define the structure within which North-eastern Quebec is to develop so as to enable Indian communities and interests to develop and progress in accordance with their own plans. Canada and Quebec also benefit from the agreements as a result of the economic fall-out which Canadians reap from Northeastern Quebec hydroelectric projects in Abitibi.

As to political development, the agreements provide for the establishment of a public administration over Inuit territory and political autonomy over Cree and Naskapi territory.

The Cree-Naskapi Act was adopted in 1984, and it applies exclusively to Northeastern Quebec. Cree and Naskapi bands already enjoy legal autonomy status, more decision-making authority, grants and other benefits.

Other bands will soon be entitled to similar benefits as political autonomy becomes reality elsewhere in Canada, in keeping with the policies announced by the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development.

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[English]

AIRPORTS

HAMILTON CIVIC AIRPORT—INVITATION TO MINISTER

Ms. Sheila Copps (Hamilton East): Mr. Speaker, there is no Minister who has the responsibility or speaks for Hamilton. The local Progressive Conservative Members are either being ignored or saying nothing. Therefore, I want to issue a person-

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al invitation to the Minister of Transport (Mr. Mazankowski) to visit the Hamilton Civil Airport with myself and members of Hamilton City Council.

The Minister will no doubt be aware that at the moment only 34,000 people per year are travelling through this airport. It is an absolute white elephant and unless the federal Government comes in with a program for a free-trade zone, or for the use of the Hamilton airport as the third expanded airport to cover the Toronto International Airport, the airport will be a disaster.

The Minister is also aware the Purolator has attempted, through negotiations with the Minister, to establish its eastern operation there. Unless it is given a positive answer within the next two weeks we will see several hundred jobs leaving Hamilton.

Since the so-called political Minister for Hamilton has done nothing in this effort, I urge the Minister of Transport to intervene personally and come to Hamilton airport to save those jobs and give Hamilton airport a chance to become the full-fledged international airport it should be and should have been when the \$50 million expansion investment was approved.

Government Members have done nothing on this issue. Perhaps the Minister could personally intervene. I am issuing him this invitation to come to Hamilton before Christmas to see the very desperate situation in Hamilton.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The Hon. Member's time has expired.

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DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

REPORTED DELIVERY OF CHRISTMAS FARE TO EMBASSIES IN LATIN AMERICA

Mr. Simon de Jong (Regina East): Mr. Speaker, over the past couple of days a very strange and unusual story has come to my attention. It would appear that the humanitarian efforts of a woman in Regina have been caught up in the delivery of External Affairs Christmas treats to our embassies in Latin America.

According to a source, 1.5 tonnes of wine, cheese, fruit and Christmas trees are being flown by a National Defence aircraft on a navigational training exercise to such capitals as Guatemala City, Georgetown, Brasilia, Ecuador, and Bogota.

When my office attempted to contact officials from the Departments of National Defence and External Affairs, we were given various different stories. At first they told us they did not know what was on the flight. Then we were told that at times they have carried personal packages of embassy personnel but only if they are packed in small boxes and weighed a specific amount. Another person from the Department of National Defence stated: "Goods which could not be purchased locally" would be on that flight and: "Yes, if there are no Christmas trees in Bogota, that might qualify".