

# HOUSE OF COMMONS

Wednesday, October 28, 1987

The House met at 2 p.m.

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*Prayers*

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## STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S. O. 21

[English]

### AUDITOR GENERAL'S REPORT

#### GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO OFFICIAL OPPOSITION'S QUESTIONS

**Hon. Bob Kaplan (York Centre):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to make some observations about yesterday's Question Period. The Auditor General's Report had just come out and that led the Official Opposition to obvious and necessary questions about the multimillion dollar payment to the West Edmonton Mall Fantasyland authorized by the present Deputy Prime Minister (Mr. Mazankowski) when he had the responsibility for the regional expansion portfolio.

The record is clear that the Minister's authorization overruled decisions by the former Liberal Government, the Minister's predecessor, officials in the Department, and the Government of Alberta on the matter. Taking that into consideration along with the criticism of the Auditor General, the questions were certainly justified.

The Minister's reply was to the effect that the Liberal question was motivated by an anti-western attitude. I suggest that it is unworthy for the Government to make any suggestion that this was based on anti-western feeling. It reminded me of the suggestion that the amendments proposed to the Meech Lake Accord were motivated by anti-Quebec or anti-franco-phone feeling.

The Government should remember that this type of answer is particularly damaging to the national unity of Canada because it always gets a bigger market than it deserves. Canada is a country of great regional diversity with a multicultural society.

● (1405)

When authentic racism and regional bias occur, it is bad enough and we have to deal with it, but to invent anti-western feeling and racism out of whole cloth, and to hide behind it, when the real issue is the Minister's decision, is damaging to Canada and despicable. Canadians of goodwill must wince

whenever this happens and must hope that the Government will find some more—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The Hon. Member for Parkdale—High Park (Mr. Witer).

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## HUMAN RIGHTS

### APPEARANCE OF JOSY TEREYA BEFORE STANDING COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS

**Mr. Andrew Witer (Parkdale—High Park):** Mr. Speaker, Josy Terelya has dedicated his life to the pursuit of religious freedom in Ukraine. His life is a living testimony to his faith, and an inspiration to all who value freedom of worship. The strength of his faith has sustained him in his long and arduous fight for the restoration of all rights to the Ukrainian Catholic Church in Ukraine.

Because Terelya had the courage of conviction to stand up to those who would deny religious freedom, he has spent most of his life, 23 years and four months, as an inmate of Soviet labour camps, prisons and psychiatric asylums.

Terelya has become a beacon of hope to the five million Ukrainian Catholics who reside in Ukraine, and a symbol of their commitment to the church, which remains strong, even in the face of an official ban.

Earlier this month, Terelya and his family were allowed to leave the Soviet Union, and later today he will appear before the House of Commons Standing Committee on Human Rights. I ask you to join me in welcoming this brave and inspiring individual to Canada, as he joins us here in the House today.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

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## TRADE

### GRAPE GROWERS—EFFECT OF CANADA-UNITED STATES TRADE AGREEMENT

**Mr. Vic Althouse (Humboldt—Lake Centre):** Mr. Speaker, the Government expects Canadian grape producers to be competitive with their California counterparts within seven years. Regrettably, our free trade negotiators did not include