

S.O. 21

something it can do, Mr. Speaker. There is something it could have done over the years but did not. I suppose, Mr. Speaker, we could say that basically the situation in Newfoundland is the fault of our political system which we cannot do anything about. It cannot be corrected. It is still probably the best system in the world. But an extremely political government always looks to the short term, to the next election. It gives people a dream, and in this case it is an offshore hope, and then lets the people wither in despair onshore. There is no planning, no long-term employment measures, and no immediate solutions to anything.

Should I call it one o'clock, Mr. Speaker?

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Herbert): I regret to interrupt the Hon. Member, but it being one o'clock, I do now leave the chair until two o'clock p.m.

At 1 p.m. the House took recess.

AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 2 p.m.

STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S.O. 21

[English]

INDIAN AFFAIRS

CONSTITUTIONALITY OF LIQUOR SECTION IN INDIAN ACT

Hon. John M. Reid (Kenora-Rainy River): Mr. Speaker, I have just returned from a visit to the Indian reserves in the far northern part of the Kenora-Rainy River constituency. One of the items raised with me by individuals and band Councils was the status of Section 97 of the Indian Act. This matter was raised particularly by the North Cariboo Lake Band at Round Lake. This Section has permitted the bands to hold votes to determine whether or not a reserve would be wet or dry. It permitted the Minister of Indian Affairs to have the final say in the matter.

A year ago a Manitoba court struck down Section 97, claiming it violated the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. Since that time havoc has reigned in northern Ontario reserves with some areas continuing to enforce Section 97, others not, and others laying charges under the Ontario Liquor Licensing Act.

Alcoholism in northern Ontario reserves has been called an epidemic. This was said by the Deputy Minister, Doctor Lyle Black, who is in charge of the Medical Services Branch of the Department of National Health and Welfare. That Branch is responsible for providing medical health services directly or indirectly to Indian bands. Of all the diseases which the Indian people are subject to, alcoholism is probably the worst. One of the weapons against this disease has been struck down by the courts.

In the name of those people who—

Mr. Speaker: I regret to interrupt the Hon. Member, but the time allocated to him has expired.

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TOURISM

IMBALANCE IN TOURIST INDUSTRY

Mr. Stan Darling (Parry Sound-Muskoka): Mr. Speaker, one industry which received little attention in the Budget was tourism. The current figures on the travel deficit give very little encouragement. Canadians travelling outside the country spent a record \$2.087 billion more last year than foreign visitors spent here. This deficit, which will worsen the country's balance of payments position, is up from the previous record of \$1.2 billion posted in 1982.

This country earned \$3.8 billion from international travel in 1983, up 3.5 per cent from 1982. During the same period, Canadians travelling abroad increased their payments by 18.6 per cent to \$5.9 billion. Canadians are consistently lured out of the country by cheap gasoline prices in the U.S., and a favourable exchange rate in other countries. This loss also costs Canada an estimated 100,000 jobs and, Mr. Speaker, that hurts. When will the Government give tourism the breaks it needs to improve its position?

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THE PRIME MINISTER

ANNOUNCEMENT OF IMPENDING RESIGNATION OF RIGHT HON. P. E. TRUDEAU

Mr. Brian Mulroney (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, in my remarks today on the Prime Minister's (Mr. Trudeau) retirement I shall be prudent.

Mr. Chrétien: It is snowing outside.

Mr. Mulroney: I am mindful that there is blizzard going on in Ottawa.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Mulroney: Last time this happened, Mr. Speaker, the eulogy proved to be somewhat premature. Accordingly, I would like to congratulate the Prime Minister and wish him well, but I propose to do so on the instalment plan. As the weeks unfold, and if the Prime Minister has not retired, I will become progressively fulsome and complimentary. Should the situation change, all bets are off.

The campaign for the Liberal leadership and the Prime Minister's worthy succession is already giving signs of being very close and exciting. It looks as if it will be a nip and tuck battle right up until the bitter end—on March 16.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!