

S.O. 21

I strongly urge the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Whelan) to adjust his Department's funding arrangements in such a way as to give the Provincial Exhibition of Manitoba the support it deserves and, indeed, the support it has earned.

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THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Hon. Bud Cullen (Sarnia-Lambton): Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to the attention of the House that the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Mulroney) is once again breaking new ground. He has agreed to appear on open line shows across the country, but on one condition, that no one can call in. It will be an open line show, but will be open from one end only. Yesterday, his press assistant confirmed that this was in fact the case but refused to say why the Hon. Leader of the Opposition would not allow people to phone in and talk to him. Today, fortunately, Bill Fox, his press secretary, has been more forthcoming. He said that the Leader of the Opposition has made it a policy not to appear on any open line shows because they are too volatile and can be manipulated by rival political organizations.

People of Canada, do not call in to the Leader of the Opposition, because the line will be busy.

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● (1110)

INDIAN AFFAIRS

VALLEY RIVER INDIAN BAND—PURCHASE OF GRAVEL PIT

Mr. Laverne Lewycky (Dauphin-Swan River): Mr. Speaker, the Valley River Indian Band in my constituency has been after the Department of Indian Affairs to assist in the purchase of a ballast pit within their reserve. This pit could be compared to the hole in a doughnut relative to its location in the reserve. An offer to sell the land to the Band was made in 1981, but no meaningful action was undertaken by the Department. The sum of \$15,000 was asked for but not accepted. This represents a pittance when one takes into account the fact that the Department spent \$30,000 over the last two years to supply gravel to this reserve.

This historically legitimate land claim should have been settled years ago, had the Minister heeded my representations. The social and economic value of this land to the Band is far greater than the amount requested. I call upon the Minister and the Department to act immediately to secure this piece of land for the Valley River Indian Band under their land claims programs and projects.

[Translation]

BANK OF CANADA

ALLEGED STATEMENT BY GOVERNOR

Mr. Jean-Claude Malépart (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Public Works): Mr. Speaker, I rise under the provisions of S.O. 21 to protest against a statement by the Governor of the Bank of Canada, Mr. Bouey, who said yesterday that workers are partially responsible for high interest rates in this country, because they are getting higher wage increases than their American counterparts.

Mr. Speaker, I think Mr. Bouey is being unfair to Canadian workers. He should not forget that last year, most workers in Canada took cuts in wages, and others were obliged, as in Quebec by the provincial Government, to forgo scheduled wage increases. Furthermore, most workers have had to accept the work sharing concept.

Mr. Speaker, I think Mr. Bouey ought to set an example and take a cut in salary or simply offer his resignation.

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[English]

POLITICAL PARTIES

LIBERAL PARTY LEADERSHIP CAMPAIGN

Mr. Doug Lewis (Simcoe North): Mr. Speaker, I want to share with the House a letter I recently received. It starts out: "Dear John: It was so nice to see you on TV after all those years. It seems like only yesterday that you quit while I was in the middle of the Ontario election campaign in September, 1975. Like many Canadians I wondered where you had been for the past nine years. Some said you were making films. Some said you were writing a pricy newsletter based on your experience as Finance Minister. Some said you were working in a fancy restaurant.

I didn't think you would be returning to politics when I heard you were practicing law on Bay Street. But you have quit that, too, although you have not quit the bank directorship. By the way, John, now that you are 'fresh' to politics, you should practice your one-on-one TV interviews. Shifty eyes, swivel chairs, a tense expression and evasive answers may have been OK in the days of radio when you were Finance Minister, but we are using television now and your lack of experience shows."

It is signed, Mr. Speaker, "Affectionately yours, Bob Nixon, former leader, Ontario Liberal Party".

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

RECOGNITION OF HONORARY BALTIC CONSULS

Mr. Jesse P. Flis (Parkdale-High Park): Mr. Speaker, Canadians from all three Baltic states, Latvia, Lithuania, and