

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Wednesday, February 8, 1995

The House met at 2 p.m.

Prayers

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

[*Translation*]

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR GENERAL

Mr. Guy H. Arseneault (Restigouche—Chaleur, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate His Excellency the Right Hon. Roméo LeBlanc, who has just been sworn in as Governor General of Canada. Mr. LeBlanc is clearly an excellent person for the job.

He has worked tirelessly and unstintingly for a united and prosperous Canada. In his speech this morning, Mr. LeBlanc expressed his love for Canada. As he said, it is up to us to build our future together as Canadians.

The choice of Mr. LeBlanc is an honour for all Acadians. As you know, he is the first Acadian to be appointed to the position of Governor General. We are proud of him.

I would like to wish His Excellency the Right Hon. Roméo LeBlanc and Mrs. LeBlanc success and happiness throughout this mandate.

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HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR GENERAL

Mrs. Monique Guay (Laurentides, BQ): Mr. Speaker, I would like to acknowledge, on behalf of the official opposition, the swearing in today of Roméo LeBlanc as the Governor General of Canada. Following his long career as a member of Parliament, minister and Liberal senator, his appointment as Governor General recognizes a life dedicated to politics.

Just as the Leader of the Opposition congratulated the Prime Minister in the House when the appointment of Mr. LeBlanc was announced, we also congratulate the Prime Minister on choosing, for the first time, an Acadian as Governor General.

We hope the Governor General will play a role in promoting the rights of francophone and Acadian communities in Canada. We acknowledge and respect the Governor General's right to defend Canadian unity, just as we must recognize the right of

sovereignists to defend their plans because, when all is said and done, the decision is for Quebecers to make and for them alone.

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[*English*]

CANADIAN AIRBORNE REGIMENT

Mr. Jack Frazer (Saanich—Gulf Islands, Ref.): Mr. Speaker, in her Standing Order 31 statement yesterday the hon. member for Brant attributed to me "comments denying any racism in the video depicting conduct of some members of the Canadian Airborne Regiment". I assume the hon. member took this statement, out of context and misrepresenting my position, from a media report.

Now I consider calling someone or an organization racist to be a very serious charge and demand factual evidence before levelling such a charge.

It is one thing to have my position misrepresented in the media but quite another to have it misrepresented in the official records of this House of Commons.

I make this statement to make clear that I did not and will not condone racism in any form. However, neither will I join the politically correct in flinging charges of racism before I know all the pertinent facts.

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PROJECT PRESERVATION

Mr. Andy Mitchell (Parry Sound—Muskoka, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, I rise in the House today to pay tribute to Project Preservation, an environmental youth group in my riding of Parry Sound—Muskoka.

Recently the group was honoured with the Ward Smith environmental youth award. This award is presented by the North Bay—Mattawa Conservation Authority for outstanding youth contributions to the local environment through awareness and action.

Project Preservation was established in the fall of 1986 as a response to the growing need for an active environmental group dedicated to education.

Within the past eight years, the need to protect our environment has grown and Project Preservation has evolved with it. Project Preservation's main focus is the publication of a bi-monthly newsletter called "Nature's Plea". "Nature's Plea"