

S.O. 22

● (1410)

THE COMMONWEALTH

ROLE OF PRIME MINISTER

Mr. Bill Tupper (Nepean-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, the Commonwealth is a vital institution in Canada's external affairs program and the manner in which it interfaces in the solution of world problems. Each Commonwealth Conference has addressed significant world problems. The last Commonwealth Conference was no exception.

Our Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) used this forum to announce an immunization program for persons in Third World countries.

The Prime Minister was also instrumental in bringing the Commonwealth leaders to agreement, to finding a middle ground on anti-apartheid sanctions against South Africa. The Commonwealth Accord was signed at the conference in Nassau by all of the 49 Commonwealth countries. It allowed the Commonwealth to remain united, to remain intact and to find a solution to a problem of concern to all.

Prime Minister Diefenbaker returned to Canada triumphant from a Commonwealth Conference some years ago. The Prime Minister returned in a similar manner last Friday. All Canadians are proud of his leadership, his contributions, and his accomplishments.

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THE ADMINISTRATION

PUBLIC OPINION POLL

Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry-Prescott-Russell): Mr. Speaker, the area near the West Door of the House of Commons looked like a used car lot again this morning, with Cabinet Ministers' limousines all over the place. Undoubtedly, the Cabinet was in session discussing the latest public opinion poll.

The poll that was released today shows that there is growing dissatisfaction with the Tory Government and a resurgence of Liberal fortunes. The people of Canada knew that they made a mistake when they elected the Government over a year ago. The jaw that walks like a man is making a mess of things. Even Charlie Star-Kist, the Tuna, will vouch for that.

What a glorious record the Government had in September. The tainted tuna scandal, the failing of two Canadians banks, the gifts to oil companies, the resignation of two Cabinet Ministers, and the awarding of lucrative contracts to Tory friends.

Ministers, Members, and staff from the Prime Minister's Office, and the Tory Party executive are retracting their statements because what the "great one" says is the truth, nothing but the truth, so help us God. Some even claim not to be astute. What does November have in store for us? More resignations, more scandals, more broken promises and more retractions? Who knows.

It is rumoured that the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) will end this Session and start afresh in the spring. I say to him: "Don't wait for spring, Brian. Do it now".

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EXTERNAL AID

IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM FOR THIRD WORLD CHILDREN

Mr. Bill Attewell (Don Valley East): Mr. Speaker, on the eve of the recent Commonwealth Conference the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) announced that Canada will give \$25 million for immunization of Third World children during the next five years.

In 1984 CIDA provided assistance to 45 Commonwealth countries. Forty per cent of our bilateral official aid goes to develop Commonwealth countries. The immunization program of \$5 million a year can save 700,000 children a year from certain death. Vaccines, equipment, and technical assistance will go to Commonwealth countries such as India and Nigeria, which have recently begun infant immunization programs.

Diseases claim about 2 million infants a year in Commonwealth countries alone.

October 16, 1985, marked the tenth anniversary of the elimination of smallpox. Other diseases will be eliminated through the generous funding of research by countries such as Canada. The \$25 million immunization program is another major step by Canada, and all Canadians should be proud to be part of this generous preventive program.

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CHILDREN

RESPONSIBILITY FOR PROTECTION AGAINST SEXUAL ABUSE

Mr. Ian Deans (Hamilton Mountain): Mr. Speaker, sexual abuse of children is a concern of all Canadians and it must now become a concern of all Members of the House of Commons. I do not know whether there are more cases or whether incidents are more disgusting, more sickening, more reprehensible and, therefore, being reported more frequently, or both, but the protection of children is a responsibility of each and every citizen.

The funds must be found now to meet the challenges of this crime. It has been over a year since the Badgley Report was filed with the House of Commons and still there has been little, if any, action taken. The parents, friends, and others who inflict their perverted lust on children must be stopped. The House of Commons must make dealing with this matter an urgent priority.