

# HOUSE OF COMMONS

Wednesday, March 11, 1987

The House met at 2 p.m.

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*Prayers*

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## STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S. O. 21

[*Translation*]

### FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL RELATIONS

#### QUEBEC—GOVERNMENT POSITION

**Mr. Jean-Claude Malépart (Montreal—Sainte-Marie):** Mr. Speaker, we have heard about the answer given the Quebec Minister of Finance by the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson), an answer which all Quebec residents can only describe as being quite insulting and arrogant. Referring to the attitude of Canada's Minister of Finance, this is the third negative answer of the Conservative Government to Quebecers. As we recall, the Minister of Cultural Communities sought financial assistance to cope with the ever increasing number of refugees coming into Quebec, but the answer of the Minister of Employment and Immigration (Mr. Bouchard) was a flat no. Then Environment Minister Cliff Lincoln asked the Minister of Environment (Mr. McMillan) for financial support to clean up the St. Lawrence River, and again the answer was no. Once more this Government's answer to all Quebecers was no.

Mr. Speaker, I am convinced that henceforth Quebecers will say no to all Conservative Members just to get rid of them.

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[*English*]

### TOURISM

#### RECORD NUMBER OF INTERNATIONAL VISITORS

**Mr. Allan Pietz (Welland):** Mr. Speaker, the Niagara Peninsula has experienced its best tourism year in 15 years. Year end travel figures released by Statistics Canada reveal that the number of international visitors to Canada was up by 18 per cent over 1985, the highest level since 1972.

Long-term visits to Canada by Americans rose to 14.1 million, representing an increase of 17 per cent, and overseas visitors to 2.1 million, representing an increase of 25 per cent. Expo 86 was a big draw, but it was not the only attraction. Visitors to Ontario increased by over 5 per cent from 1985 and that includes increases in the number of winter tourists as well.

• (1405)

A major factor in this increase was Tourism Canada's awarding winning advertising campaign "Canada: The World Next Door". The same theme will be used this year. All of us in Niagara look forward to another record-setting tourism year in 1987.

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### IMMIGRATION

#### DECREASE IN NUMBER OF IMMIGRANTS

**Mr. Dan Heap (Spadina):** Mr. Speaker, we need a new deal on family re-unification in immigration. Although in 1986 immigration increased to nearly 99,000 it still fell more than 6,000 below the minimum level of 105,000 set for that year by the Minister which, in turn, is far below the level needed to keep our population from shrinking. We need 150,000 to 200,000.

The Government has failed to achieve the level of immigration it recognizes as necessary to maintain Canada's population and economic potential. This failure is mainly due to neglect of family reunification. In family class, immigration fell 3,390 short of the Government's proposed level. In assisted relative class, it fell almost 21,000 short, even 2,364 below 1984.

The Government failed to clear up red tape delays in overseas visa offices and the Government also brought in a new restrictive point system that discourages the majority of prospective applicants.

I call on the Government to open its promised conversations with Canadian immigrant groups about a new deal on family reunification.