

*S. O. 21*

containers for this toxic waste were so hot they burned the hands of the workers who handled them despite the fact they were wearing rubber gloves.

We need to recognize that we live in one world, a shrinking world. We cannot store poison in one part of it without damaging all of it. We must learn to stop producing toxic waste rather than trying to bury it.

\* \* \*

[Translation]

## ECCLESIASTICAL AFFAIRS

CARDINAL VACHON—FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY IN RELIGIOUS LIFE

**Mr. Gilles Bernier (Beauce):** Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the people of Beauce and Quebec, I wish to pay tribute to a native son who is celebrating his fiftieth anniversary as a priest. I am referring to the illustrious prelate, His Eminence Cardinal Louis-Albert Vachon, Archbishop of Quebec.

This man, devoid of any affectation, has made his mark in the Roman Catholic Church. We admire his tireless dedication to his brothers and sisters in Christ. Cardinal Vachon has always believed that the life and dignity of every human being was worthy of respect.

Mr. Speaker, what is truly remarkable about this man is his abiding sense of justice and equity. As the Right Hon. Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) said: "In our modern society, the role of the priest has become immeasurably more complex, reflecting the rapid changes in our society".

Wherever there is trouble and despair, a priest is there to bring words of consolation and hope. Your Eminence, I wish you a happy fiftieth anniversary, good health and a long life!

\* \* \*

[English]

## THE PRIME MINISTER

**Mr. Dave Dingwall (Cape Breton—East Richmond):** Mr. Speaker, there are many important issues facing the people of Central Nova in the next federal election, but none are as fundamentally important as the issues of honesty and credibility. When the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) ran in Central Nova five years ago, he promised jobs, jobs, jobs. He bragged that when it came to government largess in Central Nova, he was going to make Allan J. look like a schoolboy. Well, we all know who the real schoolboy is. It is the Prime Minister.

In August of 1983, when the Prime Minister ran in Central Nova, there were 4,200 people dependent upon unemployment insurance. Today, four years and ten months later, there are over 6,600 people dependent upon unemployment insurance

benefits in this area. In April the unemployment insurance rate in Pictou County was 31 per cent. Where are the jobs?

The Prime Minister has proven to be a schoolboy who does not do his homework. He deserves a detention. Perhaps he should be made to stay after school and write "I will tell the truth" 6,000 times. Better still, since he is failing so badly, maybe he should just drop out altogether.

\* \* \*

## THE ECONOMY

WESTERN DROUGHT—INTEREST RATE INCREASE

**Mr. Don Ravis (Saskatoon East):** Mr. Speaker, the western economy is currently facing the strain of a drought. The federal and provincial Governments are prepared to provide whatever assistance is needed to overcome this natural disaster, yet the man-made problem of high interest rates continues to hurt the prairie economy.

Interest rates are now the single highest expense of non-farm origin faced by farmers. The rise in interest rates has been a major factor contributing to the decline of farm asset values, and what hurts the farmers hurts the whole prairie population.

● (1415)

The Bank of Canada interest rate policy is having a negative impact on new home construction, retail sales, manufacturing, and dampening the spirit of small business. This is all occurring at a time when the western economy is already in a depressed state.

I realize it is important to control inflation, but a policy which concentrates solely on inflation ignores the negative impact that high interest rates can have on important sectors in other regions of the country.

I call on the Bank of Canada to reassess its position.

\* \* \*

## ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

HARASSMENT OF VICTIM WITNESSES

**Mr. John Parry (Kenora—Rainy River):** Mr. Speaker, Canada's legal system has a long way to go before a court trial can be held in which the accused, and only the accused, is placed on trial. Recent trials have demonstrated, all too often, the licence given to unscrupulous defence counsel to place the victim or victims, almost always women and/or children, on trial, rather than the defendant.

The practice of harassment and intimidation of victim witnesses in Canadian court rooms is one that must be stopped. It degrades the quality of justice in Canada, demeans victims,