

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Friday, November 21, 1986

The House met at 11 a.m.

STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S.O. 21

[Translation]

OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

ADOPTION OF ACT ASSURING ACCESS TO SERVICES IN FRENCH IN ONTARIO

Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa—Vanier): Mr. Speaker, Ontario Francophones had cause to rejoice this week, when Bill 8, which provides for access to French language services, was passed by the Ontario legislature and received royal assent. I would like to congratulate Premier Peterson's Liberal Government, which in making this historic gesture has advanced the cause of minority language rights in Canada.

Providing services in their own language for half a million Ontario citizens and potential access for six million Quebecers or other Francophones is no mean feat. To us, French-speaking Ontarians, Bill 8 also reflects the provincial Government's goodwill and thus augurs well for future constitutional negotiations.

I would like to emphasize that the position of the Liberal Party of Canada in these negotiations is to invite the Government of Ontario to adopt Sections 16 and 20 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and thus recognize in the Constitution the right of all French-speaking Canadians to use their mother tongue in Ontario.

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[English]

AGRICULTURE

QUALITY OF WHEAT CROP AFFECTED BY RAIN

Mr. Gordon Taylor (Bow River): Mr. Speaker, Canada needs some basic reforms if we are to keep our farmers on the land. Young and middle-aged farmers are frustrated and worried about their future. Here is just one example and there are hundreds more just the same.

A third generation farmer has just completed his books for the year 1986. He had had the second largest crop in the history of the farm, which his grandfather and his father had farmed before him. Even though the price of wheat was below the cost of production, he was buoyant and happy until the crop was swathed, and then hope and cheer diminished daily as

the rains came and continued day after day. Finally, when the threshing was done, instead of number one wheat all he had was feed valued at about \$2 a bushel. "I didn't even break even, and what am I going to do for groceries for another year, and what about the clothes and books for the kids?" What, indeed? Surely when we can put a man on the moon we can provide ways and means to keep our farmers on the land.

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● (1105)

HARBOURS AND PORTS

NANAIMO HARBOUR COMMISSION—CALL FOR INVESTIGATION

Mr. Jim Manly (Cowichan—Malahat—The Islands): Mr. Speaker, political patronage is undermining the smooth operation of the five-member Nanaimo Harbour Commission. The three federally appointed members have been calling for the resignation of the locally appointed commissioner who is also chairman. In turn, the chairman has been calling for an independent investigation of the commission but this has been refused by the Minister of Transport (Mr. Crosbie).

The Hon. Member for Nanaimo—Alberni (Mr. Schellenberg) claims that the Commission is an autonomous body which must solve its own problems, this in spite of the fact that a majority of its members are federal patronage appointments, including Doug McBride, the Hon. Member's former campaign manager. McBride and the other federal appointees diverted \$8,000 from the Harbour Commission to a job seminar sponsored by the Hon. Member. Whatever the merits of the seminar, this does not seem to be the best use of Nanaimo Harbour funds.

The Minister of Transport has an obligation to investigate the Commission so that it can quit playing politics and get back to its basic job of running the harbour.

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NORTHERN AFFAIRS

HUNTING AND TRAPPING—ECONOMIC EFFECTS OF VIGILANTE TACTICS

Mr. Thomas Suluk (Nunatsiak): Mr. Speaker, I am gravely concerned, along with a constituent of mine, Mr. Frank May of Arctic Bay on North Baffin Island, over the sinking of the