

Mr. Speaker: I regret, but the time of the Hon. Member has expired. The Hon. Member for Winnipeg North.

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● (1410)

[English]

WORLD LITERACY DAY

MAJOR EFFORTS URGED TO ELIMINATE ILLITERACY

Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North): Mr. Speaker, yesterday was World Literacy Day. The idea of designating such a day to highlight the problems of illiteracy was agreed to by an international conference which was held in Montreal in 1967.

Following 20 years of so-called efforts to deal with the millions of Canadians who are functionally illiterate, Canada still has one of the worst records of the industrialized countries of the world. Twenty per cent of all Canadians, 5 million people, are still functionally illiterate. Is it not time that the Government of Canada, including the Secretary of State (Mr. Crombie) and the Minister of Employment and Immigration (Mr. Bouchard) stop making speeches and promises about illiteracy and put their money where their mouths are?

I call upon the federal Government to set aside the money that is required so that major efforts can be made to set up programs to be arranged by discussions between federal and provincial Governments, and voluntary groups that are working in that area, in order that over the next 10 years we may reduce sharply, if not completely eliminate, illiteracy in our country.

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[Translation]

QUEBEC SUMMIT

IMPORTANCE OF EVENTUAL BENEFITS

Mr. André Plourde (Kamouraska—Rivière-du-Loup): The Quebec Summit which was held last week has demonstrated once again that when Brian Mulroney and Robert Bourassa, together with their respective governments, decide to put together a large scale project, they succeed in a remarkable fashion.

Some who unfortunately knew very little about the Quebec Summit described it as a superfluous, meaningless and grandstanding exercise. Today, they are astounded with the quality of the organization, the seriousness of the discussions and the impact of the decisions arrived at.

The Quebec Summit has demonstrated that it is essential for an industrialized nation such as Canada to establish and

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maintain ties with the rest of the world. Personally, I have always believed in the Quebec Summit, especially because of its economic benefits.

Beyond the rhetoric, I am now convinced that the Quebec Summit will benefit Canadian corporations which, as a result of this privileged contact, will be in a position to make deals with member countries.

Partisanship aside, Mr. Speaker, we should recognize that all member countries but Canada in particular will reap invaluable benefits from the Quebec Summit.

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[English]

DAIRY INDUSTRY

RETENTION OF NATIONAL DAIRY POLICY ADVOCATED

Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry—Prescott—Russell): Mr. Speaker, during recent weeks and months dairy farmers have written to MPs on all sides of the House, and likely to the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney), expressing their concerns that the dairy industry in Canada could be wiped out under a free trade agreement with the United States.

We all know that the Ontario Tory Leader, Larry Grossman, is prepared to sacrifice anyone and anything in order to reach a free trade agreement. But now we want to know if the federal Government is also prepared to sell out dairy farmers. We need to receive a commitment here and now from the federal Government that the marketing boards, supply management, quotas, import restrictions, and all other components of Canada's national dairy policy will be kept. Dairy farmers need to know that today from the Government.

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[Translation]

FRANCOPHONE SUMMIT

ACHIEVEMENT OF CANADIAN PRIME MINISTER

Mr. Gilles Bernier (Beauce): Mr. Speaker, I would like to draw the attention of the House to the performance of the Prime Minister of Canada (Mr. Mulroney) in putting together the Second Francophone Summit in Quebec. It is thanks to his initiatives and his excellent relations, both internationally and with the provinces, that Canada's Ambassador to France, Lucien Bouchard, the Quebec Premier, Mr. Bourassa, and his Minister, Mr. Rémillard, were able to achieve with Ottawa what the previous federal Government had denied Quebec.

Because of this summit, we have been able to achieve common positions on political and economical international issues, as well as to define priority lines of cooperation and intervention in areas such as agriculture, energy, culture and