

[Translation]

EMPLOYMENT

STATEMENTS MADE BY LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Mr. André Maltais (Manicouagan): Mr. Speaker, I was flabbergasted, as were many North Shore residents, to learn about the remarks made last week by the Leader of the Official Opposition (Mr. Mulroney) concerning Canada's unemployment rate. I should think that the Leader of the Official Opposition is hardly in a position to take anybody to task after what happened on the North Shore and given the unduly high unemployment rate in Schefferville, Gagnon, Fermont, Sept-Îles and Port-Cartier.

Mr. Speaker, I was all the more disappointed as the charge was levelled at the Minister of Finance (Mr. Lalonde) who has done a lot for the North Shore and spent millions of dollars to create jobs and to launch the Pointe-Noire construction project which will guarantee the economic revival of the North Shore. Had the Minister of Finance not intervened directly, Mr. Speaker, we could not think and hope to restore the North Shore on a sound economic footing.

In my opinion, Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Official Opposition got his letters mixed up when he made rather unworthy allegations concerning the OECD Secretary General and the accepted procedure in diplomatic circles. The OECD is not the IOC—the Iron Ore Company—and the former President of the Iron Ore may have been confused about what he could do himself in Paris when he was President of the IOC.

Mr. Speaker, I think that he was ill-advised to make derogatory comments concerning people who work with the OECD.

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[English]

THE ADMINISTRATION

POLICIES ADVOCATED BY MINISTERS DURING LIBERAL PARTY LEADERSHIP CAMPAIGN

Mr. Bill Domm (Peterborough): Mr. Speaker, I would like briefly to voice my strong concern over the serious contradiction currently prevailing in the Liberal Cabinet. To quote the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (Mr. Munro) from a Liberal Party Biennial Policy Convention:

The Government is wasting millions of dollars by sending monthly pension cheques to wealthy senior citizens and baby bonuses to families who do not need the money. Such funds should be redirected to help the most needy.

In addition, the Minister of State for Economic and Regional Development (Mr. Johnston) was recently asked: "Would you move out of the Government's involvement in businesses like aircraft production and fisheries?" He replied: "Well, indeed, I would. If we can sell Canadair and if we can sell de Havilland, let's do it as quickly as possible."

On the subject of Petro-Canada, the same Minister was asked if Petro-Canada should be in the service station busi-

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ness. He responded by saying: "Well, frankly, I don't see any need for Petro-Canada in the service station business."

Asked whether his statements contradict policy and whether he should resign, the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Chrétien) said: "I don't have to comment on that. It's a problem for the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau), not for me."

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THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Mr. John Evans (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, in 1968, George Romney, presidential hopeful, visited Vietnam on a fact finding mission. When he came back he made some statements that were subsequently proven to be false, and he indicated that he had been brainwashed. We all know what happened to his presidential candidacy after that. The same thing is happening in Canada today, Mr. Speaker.

The Leader of the Opposition's (Mr. Mulroney) statement recently in Calgary with regard to Bill C-169, modifications to the Election Expenses Act, was, and I quote: "We were asleep at the switch. I didn't see it and I don't think anyone in our Caucus saw it." That is just not correct, Mr. Speaker, because members of the Tory Caucus have denied that is correct. This is how the Leader of the Opposition dances around an issue. Their Caucus, our Caucus, and the NDP Caucus all saw those changes, and saw the change we are talking about here in particular.

When the going gets tough, Mr. Speaker, it seems like the Tory Leader denies he knew anything about it. That is a clear and absolute deception of the public. You do not claim to have been asleep at the switch if you want to be Prime Minister of this country or, in another context, claim to have been brainwashed in the House of Commons.

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PARLIAMENT

SPEECH MADE BY HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSIONER

Mr. Rod Murphy (Churchill): Mr. Speaker, I want to repeat the words of Mr. Gordon Fairweather, Chief Commissioner of the Canadian Human Rights Commission and a former Conservative Member of this House, in a speech he made in Manitoba last Thursday. He spoke about democratic institutions and how they should be preserved. He said "the reason we are not in a totalitarian society, the reason why we have freedom and respect for human rights, is that we have institutions like Parliament and Legislatures where issues can be debated in full public view. We have elections so that people can know where their prospective representatives stand, and vote accordingly. Anything that erodes these processes and institutions brings us a step closer to totalitarianism, a step closer to the dark world that Orwell warned us about . . . I am speaking against the undermining of the institutions that