

Conservative though it is, the Alberta Government said no. So that was another \$5 million decision by the Tory administration. Of course Western Canada is home to very powerful and very strong Ministers, for we in Quebec cannot even get \$5. Our Ministers cannot even get the space agency to locate in Montreal, which would be a significant plus for the city. While Western Canada Ministers get the money they ask for, ours keep hearing no: no from the Department, no from the provincial Government, yet in Quebec it is the other way around, all Parties unanimously say that the space agency ought to be in Montreal. But the Quebec Ministers are unable to land that one. Most people say they want \$130 million in new money to develop Montreal's Vieux-Port. All the other provinces got money. But no such luck in Quebec, our Tory Ministers and Members cannot get anything.

Mr. Speaker, same thing when it comes to the development of the Vieux-Port in Montreal. Montreal East shipyard workers needed an early retirement program, but there again the Conservative Ministers from the Atlantic provinces were way ahead of their Quebec Cabinet colleagues who did not even manage to secure a contract. Just before the Christmas holiday and New Year's the Prime Minister made a solemn promise—he held his hand over his heart—and said that the shipyards were going full speed. The Vickers shipyards in Montreal had to shut down and lay off 250 workers because the Conservative Ministers from Quebec are yes-men, softies. They do not stand up in Cabinet for the legitimate interests of Quebecers.

We pay our share of all the taxes I enumerated but we get nothing in return. We cannot even get crumbs. Not only the West but Ontario and also the Atlantic provinces are beating us to the punch.

Mr. Speaker, my time is almost up. I do hope that the Quebec Ministers will do more than just running "shows" in conventions at Montreal, and that the Prime Minister, instead of his somersaults, his masquerades in Montreal, will announce that Montreal will get the Space Agency and to quote the mayor of the city not as an empty shell, but with contracts, as well as \$130 million for the development of the Old Port and for the pre-retirement of people of Montreal East.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Layton):** Order, please! It being 1 p.m., I do now leave the Chair until 2 p.m. this day.

At 1 p.m. the House took recess.

#### AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 2 p.m.

S. O. 21

### STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S. O. 21

[English]

#### OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

##### COMMISSIONER'S ANNUAL REPORT—SITUATION OF ANGLOPHONES IN PROVINCE OF QUÉBEC

**Mrs. Sheila Finestone (Mount Royal):** Mr. Speaker, the Official Languages Commissioner has ruffled some feathers by describing difficulties faced by Quebec Anglophones. If it is Mr. Fortier's job to defend the rights of Canada's linguistic minorities, then why is he being criticized for doing just that? Perhaps his words were too strong. It was one sentence. I say, let us not quibble over words, let us understand the message.

We must respond to the real sense of frustration felt by many English Quebecers. Is it really so far fetched to point out that all is not perfect for Quebec Anglophones when bilingual signs are not permitted, or when access to first-run films in English may be restricted? Mr. Fortier's statement offers constructive criticism. That is no reason for him to resign.

I think his message was that a viable French language in Quebec depends on promoting it in a vigorous way, which is what English-speaking Canadians support, rather than humbling the English minority. Is that not what Canada is all about, encouraging all our minorities to remain true to themselves and in so doing contribute to Canada's rich diversity?

Let us not shoot the messenger. Instead, let us heed the message to encourage and support healthy minority and majority language rights across Canada. Let all of us examine this issue with an open mind.

\* \* \*

#### OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

##### PROTECTION OF ANGLOPHONES AND FRANCOPHONES

**Mr. Fernand Jourdenais (La Prairie):** Mr. Speaker, today I rise to call upon the Anglophone and Francophone communities in Quebec to cross some bridges over their solitudes. We in the Conservative Party of Canada do not take calculated risks with respect to the lives of any community, whether French or English, or abandon any of our constituents for the sake of political gain.

We on the government side are only too well aware of what is needed to protect Anglophones and Francophones in this country. That is why our Government has introduced Bill C-72. We are proud of our record, and have nothing to hide like some big-time Liberal from Plessisville who is so proud from time immemorial to have never talked or done business, for that matter, with Anglophones.

We only want fair treatment for all, and our Language Commissioner should do what the law says, mind the shop in