

S. O. 31

The member for Etobicoke Centre was right.

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• (1110)

OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

Ms. Margaret Mitchell (Vancouver East): Mr. Speaker, recently the GVRD, representing 50 per cent of British Columbians, passed the following resolution:

Canada was created by the federation of two linguistic groups from an English or French heritage;

It is important to work toward the goal of a country in which all Canadians, irrespective of their origin, can feel comfortable in every region. This requires respect for minority language rights;

Whereas we live in a period characterized by sharp and sometimes rancorous debate on constitutional language questions which threaten the unity and very existence of the nation;

And it is vitally important at this critical time that all Canadians in positions of leadership speak up in support of those principles which underlie the unity and character of Canada;

Therefore, the greater Vancouver Regional District, the third largest urban community in Canada, strongly supports the linguistic duality of our nation and urges all Canadians from coast to coast to display the tolerance and understanding necessary to the building of Canada as a unified nation and constructive member of both the English speaking and French speaking parts of the world community.

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[Translation]

THE AMOS ÉLITE GALA

Mr. Guy Saint-Julien (Abitibi): Mr. Speaker, one of the goals of the Amos *Élite* Gala is public recognition of entrepreneurship, at a gala event. The first gala was held recently, attended by more than 400 guests who were unanimous in calling this event an unqualified success for the Amos Chamber of Commerce.

I would like to congratulate the winners and especially *Les Serres de Guyenne* who ranked first with the *Élite* award for manufacturers and for the year. The *Élite* for retail and wholesale businesses went to Gyva's La

Boutique du bureau. A. Bergeron and Son received the award for a service business and the Town of Amos the award for public and semi-public enterprise.

Congratulations also go to the Amosphère Hotel Complex, awarded the *Élite* for new businesses, and to Ginette Larochelle and Yvan Rose who received, respectively, the *Élite* for businesswoman and businessman of the year.

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[English]

SEED PROGRAM

Mr. Peter Milliken (Kingston and the Islands): Mr. Speaker, on February 8 the federal government cut \$41.8 million from the Summer Employment Experience Development Program. This program provided almost 72,000 summer jobs for students in the past year, thus giving students the opportunity to gain valuable work experience and to earn money to help fund their education.

By slashing \$41 million from this program, a total of 17,000 fewer students will obtain jobs this summer. Once again the Tory government is abandoning a federal role in post-secondary education in this country. It is abandoning the students by cutting the program. It is abandoning the provinces by slashing billions from its contribution to post-secondary education. In short, it is abandoning the youth of Canada and jeopardizing the very future of our country.

Surely Canadians deserve better than the short-sighted, penny-wise, pound-foolish policies of this Tory administration.

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SEED PROGRAM

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops): Mr. Speaker, we have now seen just how committed the government is to the future of Canada and the education of our young people.

Documents obtained through Access to Information show that because of cuts to the Summer Employment Experience Development Program, more than 17,000 employment opportunities for students will be lost, even though this program has proven to be successful in the provinces with traditionally higher student unemployment.