

The Dutch do not forget their Canadian liberators of years past. Each year they meet at one of the three Canadian war cemeteries in the Netherlands. The graves of our young Canadian soldiers are covered with flowers picked by school children.

To the Dutch it makes no difference if we come from Alberta, Quebec or Prince Edward Island, to the Dutch we are all Canadians. We are the ones who liberated their country in 1945.

At a time when Canadian unity is threatened, when Canadians are searching, we would do well to look at ourselves as others do and to count our blessings.

Canadians have much to be proud of.

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BILL C-79

Mr. Rod Murphy (Churchill): Mr. Speaker, I rise today on the issue of the unusual procedures that were used to proclaim Bill C-79 last week.

By avoiding the normal procedures that are there for proclaiming legislation and avoiding the safeguards and the checks that are in place for that sole reason, the government has laid itself open to an accusation of abuse of power. The government's actions have left the impression that the timing of the proclamation was due to a court case or to an investigation.

• (1410)

I call upon the minister responsible, the government House leader, to rise in this House and list all the information from the MPs involved, their solicitors, or any other persons who acted on their behalf with any member of this cabinet.

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THE LATE HON. RICHARD BENNETT HATFIELD

Mr. Greg Thompson (Carleton—Charlotte): Although Richard Hatfield has passed from this world, Mr. Speaker, that for which he stood will never pass.

Richard Hatfield was an active participant in Canadian politics dedicated to a strong and united New Brunswick, a strong and united Canada.

He said so simply, as was his way, in an article written for New Brunswick Day:

It doesn't matter where you come from if you call New Brunswick my place/*mon foyer*. We have more in common with each other than any other peoples in the world.

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He never wavered in his commitment toward that end and now that we are facing perhaps one of the greatest challenges to the future of Canada, his insight and wisdom will be sorely missed.

Yes, Mr. Speaker, Canada has lost a friend.

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TRUCKING INDUSTRY

Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry—Prescott—Russell): Mr. Speaker, a delegation of three representatives of the Independent Truckers Spouses Association, led by Mrs. Janet Keusch of Alexandria, Ontario in my riding, were here today to attend a previously scheduled meeting with the Minister of Transport.

However, when time came for the meeting, the minister's staff claimed that no meeting had ever been scheduled and of course that the minister was too busy to listen to the plight of the women and children, the spouses of the truckers.

What is the Minister of Transport afraid of? Why does he refuse to meet with these women and children? I can only conclude that the minister is ashamed of his government's policies.

I call upon the minister to meet with the Independent Truckers Spouses Association immediately after Question Period. They will be waiting for him.

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[Translation]

THE ECONOMY

Mr. Nic Leblanc (Longueuil): Mr. Speaker, in the Speech from the Throne, the federal government suggests that national unity would bring economic recovery. This is just hogwash. The facts speak for themselves. The government extolled the virtues of discipline and moderation in provincial spending. Result: Ontario's deficit tripled and reached \$10 billion. While the management of the economy has to be decentralized, the government suggests centralizing it. Inflation is up in Ontario. The federal monetary policy is knocking out the provincial economies.

So far, unity has produced the following results: inconsistency and recessions. Now we should be looking for more unity. It is clear that this will only produce even more inconsistency and less economic efficiency.