

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Friday, October 17, 1986

The House met at 11 a.m.

STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S.O. 21

[English]

ST. LAWRENCE SEAWAY

MOVEMENT OF GRAIN ON TIME

Mr. Allan Pietz (Welland): Mr. Speaker, the St. Lawrence Seaway, and the Welland Canal in particular, have been receiving some negative attention as a result of the grain handlers' strike in Thunder Bay. I would like to dispel some of the rumours. Every ship available, including ships that have been out of service for over a year, have been called into service to meet the requirements of the Canadian Wheat Board. One hundred and fifty to 200 ships are needed to move the grain. I have the assurance of Mr. Bruce McLeod, Vice-President of the St. Lawrence Seaway Authority, Western Region, in my riding of Welland, that customers will be very satisfied with the Seaway's handling of the additional traffic. There are no bottle-necks along the Seaway as a result of the strike. The wheat will be delivered on time.

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[Translation]

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

REDUCTION OF FRANCOPHONE EMPLOYEES—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa—Vanier): Mr. Speaker, according to an article in *The Globe and Mail*, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police intended to put a ceiling on the number of Canadian men and women, whose official language is French, to be allowed in its regular forces.

According to the article, the RCMP even received the Conservative Government's approval for reducing representation in the RCMP of Canadians whose official language is French from 20.8 per cent to 14.1 per cent.

How can the Government approve this unfair decision which goes entirely against the official languages policy, and does it feel no embarrassment about this policy that will affect nearly 800 Canadian men and women? At a time when this Parliament is preparing to amend the Official Languages Act—a formal commitment was made by the Government in the Speech from Throne—why doesn't the Government show some

real leadership with respect to official languages and give clear and specific directives to the RCMP, to the effect that it is not to change the rules of the game before the Parliament of Canada has decided on the amendments to be made to the Official Languages Act?

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● (1105)

[English]

STATUS OF WOMEN

PERSONS AWARDS RECIPIENTS

Ms. Margaret Mitchell (Vancouver East): Mr. Speaker, on the fifty-seventh anniversary of Persons' Day I take great pleasure in standing to honour Elizabeth Carr, Hon. Muriel McQueen Fergusson, Denyse Bélanger Rochon, Berenice Sisler and Helen Yeo. We thank them for their tireless efforts on behalf of equality for women.

This year I would also like to recognize many other brave women who are struggling to survive, the women who live the inequities that this year's Persons Awards recipients are trying so hard to correct. These are the single parent mothers raising their children on incomes below the poverty line, the women working for 60-cent dollars and no benefits in the female job ghettos, and the older women left in poverty after a lifetime of service in the home and in the paid labour force.

On behalf of these women, Mr. Speaker, I ask the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) to take concrete action to close the male-female gap, to enact mandatory enforcement of affirmative action, and to ensure prorated benefits for part-time workers.

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ENVIRONMENT CANADA

SIZE OF DEPARTMENT'S BUDGET

Hon. Chas. L. Caccia (Davenport): Mr. Speaker, in the 1984 estimates of Environment Canada, the budget was \$886 million. In 1986 the budget of Environment Canada is \$745 million, a reduction of \$141 million or about 16 per cent with respect to 1984. In addition, because of the loss in purchasing power caused by inflation, in the order of 4.2 per cent per year, the 1984 budget should have increased by \$37 million in 1985