

S. O. 21

In five years Drummondville's World Folklore Festival had become the most important folkloric event in North America. More than 600,000 visitors attended last year's festivities. We have various activities, including craft exhibits, more than 400 dance shows, religious events, public events, and day and night parades.

I should like to commend the Mackinaw folkloric ensemble for their outstanding contribution in first hosting this festival. I expect to see you at the World Folklore Festival between July 3 and July 13, for this is a unique event.

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[English]

CHILDREN

REPORT ON ABUSE OF CHILDREN SUFFERING UNDER APARTHEID IN SOUTH AFRICA

Mr. Roland de Corneille (Eglinton—Lawrence): Mr. Speaker, the Defence for Children International, a Swiss based organization dedicated to children's issues, has just released a report "Children under Apartheid" detailing incidences of child abuse in South Africa. This report outlines massive evidence that members of the South African Government's security forces are abusing the powers granted them under the state of emergency in effect since last June, and children are being arrested and detained without cause.

The South African Government has admitted it is guilty of these allegations. Since 1985, police have shot and killed more than 300 children and wounded more than 950 children with gun-fire.

The report also alleges that an estimated 10,000 children under the age of 18 years are held in custody without trial in South Africa.

● (1405)

The Canadian Government has known for a long time of the brutal treatment of innocent black South African children. The Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Clark) has been reluctant up until this point to impose full economic sanctions against South Africa. But his other avenues of recourse are not stopping the cruel and oppressive treatment of South African blacks.

It is good that the Secretary of State for External Affairs has condemned the treatment of blacks by the Botha Government. Will he now commit his Government to helping innocent children? These children deserve a future, not one that is marred with a loss of dignity, torture, and even brutal slaughter.

MULTICULTURALISM

1987 CONSTITUTIONAL ACCORD—FOUNDATION OF MULTICULTURAL IDENTITY

Mr. William G. Lesick (Edmonton East): Mr. Speaker, I rise to address the House with respect to the provisions for Canada's multicultural community in our constitutional Accord.

It is with honour that I allay misgivings expressed in this Chamber and in the media that the large number of Canadians of neither French nor English background may be overlooked in the Accord. In both spirit and actual wording our rich cultural language of ancestral traditions and heritage languages is portrayed and assured of protection.

Canada's respect for its multicultural roots has always been government policy and it will be further entrenched next autumn when the Secretary of State (Mr. Crombie) tables Canada's first ever multiculturalism Act. More than ever, our unique multicultural identity will be seen as a fact of law, not just as a fact of life.

Our constitutional Accord serves as a firm foundation by which the Government upholds its cherished multicultural character. The new Act will further affirm this symbol of Canadian ancestral pride.

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PROVINCIAL AFFAIRS

PROVISIONS OF SASKATCHEWAN BUDGET CRITICIZED

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton—Melville): Mr. Speaker, yesterday in Saskatchewan the Conservative Government of Grant Devine brought in a Budget. In this Budget the Government increased the flat tax, increased the sales tax from 5 per cent to 7 per cent, brought back the gas tax, and brought in all types of other taxes. During the campaign members of the Conservative Party promised not to increase taxes. They have now brought in tax after tax after tax.

Once again this action shows us that Tory times are taxing times; that Tory times are tough times.

In addition, medical care services have been cut back, as have dental care services, nursing homes, and services to ordinary people.

The present Government of Saskatchewan is similar to the Government of R. B. Bennett of the 1930s. That was the Government that brought us the Great Depression. I learned as a little child that Tory times are tough times. After R. B. Bennett the Conservative Party disappeared in the West for about 35 years. It was not until Diefenbaker revived it that it reappeared.

With this latest Budget of Grant Devine and with the help of the Prime Minister of Canada (Mr. Mulroney), once again