

Tributes

Mr. Mulroney: I think it recommended that it be referred back for a new trial and the Government of Saskatchewan, which prosecuted this matter, has apparently decided not to proceed.

It seems to us that in this case and these circumstances the legislative jurisdiction responsible for initiation of the matter of the first case ought to examine David Milgaard's request for assistance and/or compensation.

Mr. John Harvard (Winnipeg—St. James): Mr. Speaker, there are guidelines in place for compensation for people who have been victimized by the system of justice. However, Mr. Milgaard is not considered eligible for compensation because he has not been declared an innocent man. Only his murder conviction has been quashed and charges stayed.

It is important to know how the government feels about this. The man, after all, has been incarcerated for 23 years. Does the government just shrug its shoulders and say "too bad, that would not be consistent with the Prime Minister's expressed sympathies"?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, we would not propose to shrug our shoulders and say "too bad" any more than I would have considered saying that when I met Mrs. Milgaard. She gave me her point of view. She explained the situation of her son and, as I say, I did what I thought I ought to do further to that meeting.

I have just explained to my hon. friend that further to the reference, or pursuant to the reference to the Supreme Court, decisions of the court were made. The principal decision was to refer it for re-examination for prosecution, and if that was the decision, a new trial, by the chief Crown prosecutor of Saskatchewan. Apparently he has declined to prosecute, in which case it would seem to me that any cause for compensation or assistance which might arise from that decision would be the area or the jurisdiction to which Mr. Milgaard might want to address his attentions.

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FEDERAL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT BANK

Mr. Greg Thompson (Carleton—Charlotte): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of State for

Small Businesses and Tourism. It concerns the administration of the Federal Business Development Bank.

The FBDB appears to have strayed from its original mandate or sense of purpose. Business people in my riding are continually frustrated at the inconsistencies and bureaucratic red tape associated in attempting to obtain assistance through local FBDB offices.

My question is simply this: what measures is the minister prepared to take to ensure that the FBDB is made more responsive to the needs of Canadian business?

Hon. Tom Hockin (Minister of State (Small Businesses and Tourism)): Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague for taking the trouble to share with us his concerns. I would like him to know that no individual branch of the FBDB is perfect. I am going to examine the procedures in his region and especially in his constituency.

He should know that in Atlantic Canada 495 files were approved last year. We had in Canada over 2,000 new loans last year alone. We have a bank here which is a supplemental lender to the major chartered banks that funded over 4,000 files the year before, presumably financing the chartered banks would not do.

I think the FBDB is doing a good job in a difficult climate, but if improvements can be made we will make them.

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[Translation]

THE LATE MAURICE SAUVÉ

Hon. Marcel Masse (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, we were dismayed to learn of the death of the Hon. Maurice Sauvé on Monday, April 13.

An experienced businessman and tireless politician respected by all, he served his community in exemplary fashion throughout his career in politics and social affairs. He will be remembered as a vigorous, direct, straightforward man who was not afraid to take risks, as his participation before the Beaudoin-Dobbie committee, for example, shows.

I would repeat the words of the Prime Minister in his tribute. He said, "Those who had the privilege to know and be touched by the depth of his convictions will always remember him as fiercely Quebecois and passion-