

*S. O. 31*

observance of the 30th anniversary of Canada's flag. In fact I saw only one Reformer there.

Perhaps it is because they wanted to stay in their offices preparing to sing our national anthem on the floor of the House of Commons. Perhaps they were just too busy getting ready for another event which took place last evening.

I was one of many members who accepted an invitation to attend a reception by the Canadian Restaurant Association, a wonderful event where guests are served tasty delights from every Canadian province.

Included in the crowd were many Reform Party MPs who appeared to be having the time of their lives. Their usual sanctimony was gone. There was no evidence of the parsimonious, frugal, grassroots politicians. They came to eat, drink and be happy. On that, I think everybody can agree.

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**CANADIAN FLAG**

**Mr. Harbance Singh Dhaliwal (Vancouver South, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, yesterday was the 30th anniversary of our maple leaf flag.

Our flag is a proud and distinct international symbol. It is recognized and greeted with warmth all over the world. Canadians can be seen wearing the maple leaf on their backpacks while travelling abroad. Even some Americans have been known to wear our flag while travelling.

The maple leaf flag unites us from coast to coast. The flag is one of the things that encompasses all Canadians despite our varied regional characteristics.

Yesterday in communities all across Canada there were flag raising ceremonies, speeches and school assemblies. Canadians from all races and religions celebrate the flag together.

I congratulate and welcome the three new members elected to represent their constituencies and our flag. Today I ask all my colleagues to reflect on the significance of our maple leaf flag and its meaning to all Canadians.

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[Translation]

**30TH ANNIVERSARY OF CANADIAN FLAG**

**Mrs. Monique Guay (Laurentides, BQ):** Mr. Speaker, yesterday the minister of heritage made a very clumsy attempt at camouflaging the federal government's prereferendum propaganda by literally plastering Quebec with posters on the 30th anniversary of the Canadian flag, at a cost of over \$1 million.

• (1405)

Today's *Toronto Star* confirms that more than half of these propaganda posters are for Quebec, despite the minister's statement that only 30 per cent of them would be put up in that province.

Why will the minister not simply admit what the federal government's goal is in lavishly celebrating this anniversary, in using all available means to try to influence Quebecers on the eve of the referendum and in trying to artificially instill in them a fleeting feeling of Canadian identity?

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[English]

**BILL C-263**

**Mr. Jim Hart (Okanagan—Similkameen—Merritt, Ref.):** Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the constituents of Okanagan—Similkameen—Merritt to remind my colleagues that Bill C-263, which I introduced in the House, will be debated today.

Bill C-263 is an act to amend the Financial Administration Act and will bring five crown corporations under part X of the act. The five corporations are the Canada Council, the Canadian Film Development Corporation, the Canadian Wheat Board, the International Development Research Centre and the National Arts Centre Corporation.

The bill intends to bring accountability to these five corporations through allowing the Auditor General to conduct special examinations, a value for money audit every five years, as the Auditor General's office does regularly with other departments in the public service.

This matter concerns accountability. It works toward reducing waste, improving requirements for planning, improving strategy and cost systems. In short, the bill will ensure that five crown corporations are following good management practices.

I encourage all members to support Bill C-263.

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**TRANSPORTATION**

**Mr. Vic Althouse (Mackenzie, NDP):** Mr. Speaker, I have a proposal for the Minister of Transport who says he wants to rid himself of the financial obligations for the Crow benefit. He also says he wants to get rid of the Canadian National Railway.

Since the present value of the Crow benefit obligation is somewhere between \$7 billion and \$9 billion, sums which the government is hard pressed to find, why does the minister not offer prairie farmers the CNR (North American) as at least a partial payment of the Crow obligation?