

S. O. 31

[Translation]

#### MEMBER FOR CHAMBLY

**Mr. Mark Assad (Gatineau—La Lièvre):** Mr. Speaker, with all due respect, I was astonished when I read the statement made by the member for Chambly, a member of the New Democratic Party to the effect that he won't be speaking for his party when he declares himself in favour of sovereignty-association, although he doesn't agree with the definition of the PQ, and he is against Quebec's independence. Before his election, M. Edmonston supported the Meech Lake Accord. Since his election, he has been against it. I wish to give a piece of advice to the member for Chambly, but not as member of the New Democratic Party: if a referendum is held, let his position be clear and unequivocal. I understand!

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[English]

#### CHILD TAX CREDIT

**Ms. Dawn Black (New Westminster—Burnaby):** Mr. Speaker, I rise today in defence of thousands of Canadian children, children who may not see the Christmas they were promised by this government.

The finance minister's press release on Bill C-86, the advanced child tax credit, confidently stated that his government would:

—expedite its consideration, so that prepayment of the—credit may be made in November.

November is here, but where is the bill? Questioned last week as to when it would be raised in the House, this government committed to nothing. Let me now urge the finance minister to re-read his own press release and to act and act now.

Low income families have made plans for their credit, taking the government's word that the cheque was as good as in the mail. I fear that children who can least afford it will be short-changed. Above all, I fear that in Canada the grinch who stole Christmas is not just a cartoon character; he is a minister of the Crown.

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[Translation]

#### ITALIAN CANADIANS

**Mr. Vincent Della Noce (Laval—Est):** Mr. Speaker, I also want to echo the sentiments expressed by the hon. member for York West and all members of Italian

descent who sit in this House. Yesterday the Prime Minister of Canada apologized to Canadians of Italian origin for the hardships caused by the government in office during World War II.

November 4 will be a historic day for people of the Italian community because justice was rendered at last.

After half a century of silence during which successive governments in turn failed to apologize for so unjustly incarcerating more than 700 Italian Canadians, most of whom lived in Montreal and Toronto, the Prime Minister of Canada, the Right Hon. Brian Mulroney, had the courage to re-open and correct a page of our history, an initiative which none of the previous governments ever did take.

Ever since I first entered politics, Mr. Speaker, I never thought I had made a bad choice when I ran under the Conservative Party banner.

Today I say publicly that I am proud to be a member of the Conservative government of Brian Mulroney, all the more so because this was the outcome of an electoral commitment to Canadians of Italian origin and to the whole Italian community—

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois):** The hon. member for York Centre.

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[English]

#### NATIONAL UNITY

**Hon. Bob Kaplan (York Centre):** Mr. Speaker, Canadians are entitled to look to the national political parties as instruments of national unity. In times of regional tensions like today, parties are expected to offer support for unity, each working out its concept for binding our country together.

In this connection, it has to be noted that members of the NDP seem to have developed two faces. Outside Quebec they present a face which continues to speak for a renewed and strengthened federalism. Inside Quebec, their sole MP, the member for Chambly, calls for a sovereign Quebec with an association in economic matters with the rest of Canada.

• (1430)

We know this message is attractive right now to many Quebecers, but it does not square with the party's policy outside Quebec. This is not a contribution to national unity. The NDP two-faced policy is a disgrace.