

The minister should know how internal probes feel by now. This summer he asked his employees to clear him of charges of steering lucrative contracts to a campaign contributor who just happened to be the golfing buddy of the Prime Minister.

The internal whitewash declared the minister clean even though a letter from the minister's office blatantly directed a government agency to do business with this sole bidder and then asked the agency to confirm progress.

We know how internal probes feel. Take two aspirins and call the ethics counsellor in the morning. We know how that feels too. It is not very satisfying over here.

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BILL S-9

Mr. Nelson Riis (Kamloops, NDP): Mr. Speaker, do we as members of Parliament and does the public generally have any idea what Bill S-9 is all about?

At a time when funding for Canadian colleges, universities and institutes is being reduced through cuts in transfer payments, the House is about to pass legislation today that will see Canadian taxpayers funding United States universities and colleges.

Yes, Canadian taxpayers will be able to support American colleges and universities. Bill S-9 will enable Canadians to donate funds to any college or university in the United States and then be able to deduct these contributions on their tax returns. Canadians will now be able to donate money to Harvard, Stanford, UCLA or Eastern Arkansas State College and then deduct these contributions on their Canadian tax returns.

Why are Canadians being asked to subsidize U.S. colleges and universities at the same time when support for Canadian post-secondary institutions are being seriously underfunded?

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[Translation]

FRANCOPHONE COMMUNITIES

Mr. Ronald J. Duhamel (St. Boniface, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, I was very impressed by an ad placed by the francophone community of Alberta in the Wednesday edition of *Le Soleil* two weeks ago.

What it said reflected the concerns of French speaking communities across Canada. Canada is recognized around the world as a bilingual country where both English and French are spoken. The future of the French language in Canada would be seriously threatened in a divided country. It is obvious.

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Francophones were among the founders of cities like Moncton, Winnipeg, Regina and Edmonton. The voyageurs who discovered new territories and the settlers who farmed this new land are but a few examples of this. We must not break the ties between Quebec and francophone communities in the other Canadian provinces. Together, we are stronger, much stronger.

I will conclude by quoting the French Canadian Association of Alberta and saying, on behalf of all francophone communities in Canada, that the French language has a place in Canada, and so does Quebec.

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REFERENDUM CAMPAIGN

Mrs. Eleni Bakopanos (Saint-Denis, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, the yes side has a real problem refraining from excluding various groups when it discusses who is a true Quebecer and who is not.

• (1410)

The recent controversial comments made by the Bloc Quebecois leader concerning the low birth rate among whites were echoed once again in the separatist camp.

Mr. Emmanuel Marcotte, president of the yes committee for the Outaouais region, said: "It is a fact, it is a white race. I mean it is a fact. Let us call a spade a spade. We are white people. We are not yellow and we are not green. We are white. You do not like the word race, but that is the truth".

These comments follow a long series of discriminatory and racist statements made by the yes side. On October 30, Quebec will say no to intolerance and to exclusion.

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FRANCOPHONES OUTSIDE QUEBEC

Mr. Paul DeVillers (Simcoe North, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, according to the Bloc Quebecois, French speaking people outside Quebec are all condemned to assimilation unless Quebec separates.

That reasoning is all the more insulting because it is unsound. Today, there are seven million French speaking people in Canada, out of a total population of 27 million, which means about 25 per cent of all Canadians. Should the yes side win, there would be one million French speaking people in Canada out of a total population of 20 million, or five per cent of Canadians.

Separatists are prepared to jeopardize the remarkable progress that we have made over the last 30 years to protect and promote French in Canada. Separation would result in the worst geopolitical setback for French in North America since 1759.

French speaking people from all regions of the country, including Quebec, know very well that there is strength in numbers and that a French speaking community which comprises Quebec is the best guarantee that French will blossom in this country.