

S.O. 21

EDUCATION

FEDERAL FUNDING OF POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION

Mr. Howard McCurdy (Windsor—Walkerville): Mr. Speaker, Chief Justice Brian Dickson took the convocation platform Friday at the University of British Columbia to implore Governments to save the higher education system before it begins producing second-class teachers, students, and, ultimately, a second-class nation.

He went on to note that while education may be too important to leave solely to educators, it is also true that education is too important to be left to Ministers of Finance.

The wisdom offered by Chief Justice Dickson should be heeded by the Government. The judge was speaking directly to the federal Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson) who has taken over the post-secondary education portfolio and introduced legislation that will devastate the system. When a Chief Justice deems it necessary to speak out against Government policy the Government would do well to listen and, in response, provide with the provinces resources to post-secondary education commensurate with the key role they must play in ensuring Canada's economic, political and social future.

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VETERANS AFFAIRS

CEREMONY HONOURING SGT. AUBREY COSENS, V.C.

Mr. John A. MacDougall (Timiskaming): Mr. Speaker, on May 31, in the Town of Latchford, in my riding of Timiskaming, I joined, with over 2,000 people, to honour the memory of Sergeant Aubrey Cosens.

A bridge spanning the Montreal River, along with a cairn and park, were dedicated in Sergeant Cosens' name to pay tribute to his outstanding efforts during the Second World War.

It was in Germany in 1945 that Sergeant Cosens led an attack against three enemy strong points, which he eventually captured. He was later awarded the Commonwealth's highest declaration for valour, the Victoria Cross.

To honour this native son the people of Latchford went out of their way to make these dedication ceremonies a success. I also want to mention Branches 629 and 344 of the Royal Canadian Legion which played a major role in organizing this event. Their combined efforts to honour the memory of Sergeant Cosens made this day a special one.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

[Translation]

FIRES

HELP GIVEN TO FIGHT FIRES IN ABITIBI

Mr. Guy St-Julien (Abitibi): As a result of an intense forest fire, Mr. Speaker, a state of emergency was declared in Abitibi on Thursday, May 29, 1986, namely at the Waswanipi Cree village and the Shortt Lake Falconbridge Mine. Winds are strong in the region and the flames nearly reached the village. All residents were urgently evacuated to Lebel-sur-Quévillon and Chapais. Chief Abel Kitchen, Jean Blouin and I flew over the region on Friday, and more than 50,000 hectares of forest timber have been destroyed. Day and night, workers fought the fire under trying conditions.

Mr. Speaker, personally and on behalf of Great Chief Ted Moses and Chief Abel Kitchen I want to thank the Government of Quebec, the Quebec Police Force, the Lebel-sur-Quévillon Civil Protection, the towns of Chapais and Lebel-sur-Quévillon as well as the Domtar Company and our courageous Canso water bomber pilots who fought the flames calmly and skillfully. The fire was brought under control yesterday, and today the Waswanipi Cree Amerindians and the Shortt Lake workers are back home.

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[English]

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

CALL FOR INTRODUCTION OF NEW LEGISLATION

Mr. Alan Redway (York East): Mr. Speaker, this week, Environmental Week, is a time for all Canadians to focus on the grave environmental problems threatening our air, our water, and our health.

Unfortunately some of these problems are clearly beyond our control. We can shout, scream, and threaten, but realistically there is no way Canada can force the United States to clean up their acid rain or their waste chemical dumps.

Many of these problems, however, are within our own control. We have imposed new emission controls on automobiles and started to phase out leaded gasoline. But much remains to be done.

We need a new Environmental Protection Act. We need new penalties, including jail terms for polluters, and we need to spend the \$150 million we promised to spend on cleaning up acid rain sources in Canada. It is time to get on with it, and Environmental Week is a good time to start.