

● (1100)

Actions speak louder than words. Mr. Zimmerman could take his own advice and act to stop MacMillan-Blodel from clearcutting the ancient, beautiful, and culturally important forest on Meares Island.

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CANADA SCHOLARSHIPS PROGRAM

AWARDS TO 2,500 STUDENTS

Mr. Dave Nickerson (Western Arctic): Mr. Speaker, I would like to underline the importance of the Canada Scholarships Program. The Government is very pleased to honour some of Canada's best students through this innovative program. Fifty-three young Canadians have recently been in Ottawa as representatives of the 2,500 1988 Canada scholarship winners. Each student will be eligible for \$2,000 per year for a total of \$8,000 per scholar.

The Canada Scholarships Program was announced by the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) last January in Toronto at the National Conference on Technology and Innovation. It will help fill the pressing need for highly qualified personnel in industry, universities, and government. Our future prosperity will be greatly enhanced by the contributions of these well trained, bright young people. As the Prime Minister stated at the University of Waterloo in March, 1987, the western world is moving toward knowledge-based economies, and Canada must move with it.

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NORTHERN AFFAIRS

YELLOWKNIFE—APPLICATION OF NORTHERN TAX BENEFIT

Ms. Audrey McLaughlin (Yukon): Mr. Speaker, federal employees in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, are being subjected to seeing a benefit quickly become a liability. The northern tax benefit has become a nightmare for over 600 employees owing to the Government's refusal to set the housing benefit at a fair rate. As a result, there is the clearly inequitable situation in which a federal employee in the Yukon might receive a \$600 credit in taxes as a result of the northern benefit while a Yellowknife employee receives a \$2,000 to \$3,000 liability in extra taxes.

To complicate this situation further, Treasury Board has not been deducting the appropriate tax at source and employees are now hit with owing as much as \$5,000 to \$6,000 in back taxes. So much for fairness for average families. Revenue Canada's response is "Pay up or else". Treasury Board's response is "If you don't like it, leave the North". That is exactly what is going to happen. Yellowknife employees are requesting to be transferred out and other

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employees are indicating that they will refuse assignments to Yellowknife.

I challenge the Minister responsible for Revenue Canada, whose Government likes to preach tax reform, to go to Yellowknife and meet with federal employees to resolve this unjust, unfair, and inequitable situation.

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[Translation]

HOUSE OF COMMONS

RESPECT FOR INDEPENDENT MEMBERS

Mr. Gabriel Desjardins (Témiscamingue): Mr. Speaker, we must deplore the undignified circus atmosphere which took over the House during last night's historic vote on Bill C-130 concerning the liberalization of our trade with the United States.

Mr. Boudria: Including the Conservatives' badges.

Mr. Desjardins: The NDP Members displayed on national television a childish behaviour. They acted in their usual irresponsible and immature way. They have demonstrated once again they are not ready to govern this country.

And what can we say, Mr. Speaker, about the noisy and undignified intervention by a small group in the Opposition galleries? It will be up to you to decide, Mr. Speaker, whether the Opposition should be censured for this disgraceful and unbecoming spectacle.

Let me say to the Liberals, who keep on calling for an election, that they will get it soon enough and that they will pay dearly for their foolhardiness. Canadians will teach them a good lesson.

The only dignified event last night was the vote by three independent-minded members of this House. They were not afraid to let their convictions be known by voting with the Government. They understood that the country's best interests required that they do so. For the courage they showed, they at least deserve our respect.

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[English]

PARLIAMENT HILL

PEARSON STATUE—NAMING OF SCULPTOR

Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry—Prescott—Russell): Mr. Speaker, on October 1, 1986, I introduced a motion in this House asking Parliament to cause a statue to be erected in honour of the Right Hon. Lester B. Pearson, Canada's 13th Prime Minister. Today I am glad to say that the maquette honouring Mr. Pearson was unveiled. We also now know the name of the successful sculptor, Mr. Danek Modzenski, of Edmonton, Alberta.