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For these reasons I strongly encourage all parties involved to address the concerns and progress with the project as quickly as possible.

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RAMADAN

Mrs. Beryl Gaffney (Nepean): Mr. Speaker, this morning I had the great pleasure of joining with thousands of Muslims from the nation's capital who were taking part in the celebration of *Id Al-Fitr*, or the Little Feast, to mark the end of Ramadan. I would like to wish all Muslim Canadians and Muslims throughout the world *Eid Mubarak*.

Ramadan is the ninth month of the Islamic religious calendar and a time of fasting and prayer. It has traditionally been regarded as the month in which the first revelation of the Koran was made by Allah, which was about how he and his people should live.

Ramadan is an equalizer, when both rich and poor experience the feeling of what it means to be hungry. During Ramadan Muslims do not eat or drink anything from dawn to dusk, not even water unless someone is ill. This fast is one of the five pillars of Islam, together with recitation of the creed, prayer, pilgrimage and *Zakat*.

The celebration of the Little Feast to mark the end of Ramadan is a testament to the freedoms and privileges we all enjoy in our society. On behalf of the Liberal Party of Canada and my colleagues in the House of Commons I want to express my best wishes to all Muslims on this most special day at the end of this most special month. *Eid Mubarak*.

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TAXATION

Mr. Bill Blaikie (Winnipeg Transcona): Mr. Speaker, a column in *The Bottom Line*, a magazine for accountants, has described the Tory \$500,000 lifetime capital gains tax deduction of 1985 as the biggest budget goof in Canadian history. It might also be described as the single biggest act of hypocrisy in Canadian history.

A government that has constantly lectured Canadians on deficit reduction threw away \$20 billion, \$14 billion of which was totally wasted even by the government's own

standards because it was claimed by people who were not engaged in the kinds of economic activity that the government was trying to stimulate. It was basically a windfall for a minority of speculators and others of their ilk who should be driven out of the temple with a whip.

Now after the horse has left the barn we see attempts to close the door, but again only in a way that betrays the Tory bias for the rich. Ordinary Canadians with cottages are being hit, but not so ordinary Canadians with huge family trusts are having their capital gains tax exemption extended.

A government that asks so little of those with so much and so much of those with so little will not be surprised if the many reduce the Tory numbers to a few in the next election.

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• (1410)

[*Translation*]**LIBERAL PARTY**

Mr. Jacques Vien (Laurentides): Mr. Speaker, I have given up long ago trying to make sense of the choice of candidates in the Liberal Party. I think that Canadian people, who are after all financing the activities of the recognized political parties to a large extent, have the right to know on what basis the Leader of the Opposition can make nominations as a matter of course and turn down or forget about others.

For instance, the leader of the Liberal Party has recently prevented his party's president, Don Johnston, from running in Saint-Henri—Westmount. But this week the Liberal Party was welcoming Elijah Harper who has single-handedly and stubbornly blocked the passage of the Meech Lake accord in the Manitoba legislature.

I do not doubt the personal merits of Mr. Harper. What I do question however is the judgment of the leader of the Liberal Party who not only embraced Clyde Wells in Calgary the very next day after Meech died but is now embracing Elijah Harper. It is as if the Leader of the Opposition, having lost any hope of electoral success in Quebec, has decided to run in the rest of the country by siding with those who killed the Meech Lake accord.