

*S. O. 31*

This day must be an occasion to reflect on the evolution of the major role played by the family, which is the cornerstone of our society.

In spite of above-mentioned changes, one thing remains certain: generations follow one another, but the family will always play a fundamental role by providing our children with an essential and special environment to foster their development.

On this International Day of Families, I wish everyone the very best.

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**CULTURAL COMMUNITIES**

**Mrs. Eleni Bakopanos (Saint-Denis, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, last Friday, five members of the Bloc Québécois' commission of cultural communities resigned to denounce the fact that they were being manipulated by Bloc officials.

With their resignation, the cultural communities representatives wanted to show that they would not have a real role to play in an independent Quebec.

The few reactions from Bloc spokespersons following these resignations clearly show the deep malaise which exists between the Bloc and the cultural communities.

[English]

This is one more example of the failure of the Bloc as well as the PQ to sell their separatist option to Quebec's cultural communities. These Quebecers have seen through the PQ's fearmongering and desperate tactics.

[Translation]

Quebec's cultural communities deserve respect; they do not want to be ignored. Quebec's future will not be decided without their input, in spite of what the Bloc and the PQ may think.

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**INTERNATIONAL DAY OF FAMILIES**

**Mr. Gilbert Fillion (Chicoutimi, BQ):** Mr. Speaker, today, on the International Day of Families, the Bloc Québécois wishes to emphasize the importance of this primary social unit for each and every one of us.

Many believe that the family is the place where the individual is formed, for better or for worse. That is why it is so important to aim for more equality in our society, and I mean not only equal opportunities but also some basic equality in living conditions.

In 1993, more than one million families in Canada were living below the poverty line. For us as elected representatives, this should be a day to reflect on what we hope to achieve in this

House and how we can improve the lives of families in Quebec and Canada.

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[English]

**ONTARIO ELECTION**

**Mr. Ken Epp (Elk Island, Ref.):** Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Finance has gone on the hustings for Lyn McLeod and the son of red book. In a speech to the Liberal faithful, the minister heaped praise on the Ontario Liberals for setting a four-year target for the elimination of the deficit, calling their so-called strategic spending cuts laudable and their tax cuts sensible. This is very ironic. In a classic case of Liberal doublespeak, it is another example of do as I say not as I do. It is just like their MP pension plan reform.

Despite constant Reform pressure, the minister has repeatedly refused to set a date to eliminate the deficit and has actually increased taxes by over \$1.5 billion. Liberals love taxes so it is not surprising that they would tax logic along with everything else.

Not to worry. The son of red book will end up with the garbage with its federal parent. Ontario voters will have the sense to realize that it is only by the application of the sound Reform principles of deficit elimination, debt reduction and the resultant tax reductions which will ultimately work to—

**The Speaker:** The hon. member for Bruce—Grey.

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**OFFICIAL LANGUAGES**

**Mr. Ovid L. Jackson (Bruce—Grey, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, within the last number of days I was troubled by some incidents in connection with a francophone woman by the name of Johanne Harvey living in my riding of Bruce—Grey, in the city of Owen Sound of which I was the mayor.

I want to assure the House that the city of Owen Sound and the Government of Canada are strongly committed to supporting linguistic minorities across the country and promoting language duality as an essential element of Canadian unity and identity.

We will continue to speak out on behalf of tolerance and ensure that there are harmonious relations between linguistic communities in Canada.

Our actions over the past year as a government are clear. We have reaffirmed the vision of Canada in both our language and in our community. We want to make sure all Canadians feel at home right across this great country.

• (1415)

On another note, I have been in contact with the mayor of the city of Owen Sound and he takes the matter extremely seriously and will look into it personally.