

S.O. 21

1984, is producing offspring. On Monday our double-talking Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) made a statement in Quebec designed to undermine Quebec Bills 140 and 142. These Bills were presented by the majority Bourassa Government to provide greater language equity in Quebec.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The Chair will allow the Hon. Member to continue but I think the Hon. Member, who is an experienced parliamentarian, would want to think carefully about some of the words he has used. I am sure he will take that into account for the rest of his statement. I think language like that does create some difficulties for the Chair.

Mr. Allmand: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As a result, the Prime Minister was naturally applauded by Pierre Marc Johnson, Leader of the Parti Québécois, and criticized by Liberal Minister Lise Bacon. In this respect the Prime Minister has now aligned himself with the Association of St. John Baptiste Societies and other extremist groups. This is the same Prime Minister who, in the 1984 election and in the Speech from the Throne, promised to protect minority language rights. We now know that promise is as worthless as hundreds of others. When will the Prime Minister live up to his commitments and start telling Canadians the truth?

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[Translation]

HOUSE OF COMMONS

FRENCH LANGUAGE USAGE

Mr. Gabriel Fontaine (Lévis): Recently, Mr. Speaker, our Conservative colleague from Mégantic—Compton—Stanstead (Mr. Gérin) took the initiative of releasing figures on the use of French in the House of Commons.

Under the Liberals French was used 9 per cent of the time in this House. In October 1986, under the Conservatives, the use of French had gone up to 20 per cent.

Which political Party belittles the use of French in the House of Commons?

In October 1984 the socialist Party used French only 3.9 per cent of the time, even less in November 1986, 3.3 per cent. However these figures are misleading because most socialist Members read texts which have been translated into French especially for the Oral Question Period.

Once again the socialist Party does not show its true colours, which is why it will not gain ground in Quebec at the next election. Mr. Speaker, Quebecers will never forget the socialist Party's hypocritical approach in its advertising.

• (1410)

[English]

POLITICAL PARTIES

CANADA-UNITED STATES TRADE NEGOTIATIONS—POSITION OF LIBERAL PARTY

Mr. Jim Jepson (London East): Mr. Speaker, given the Liberals' penchant for book writing, I have a suggestion for the Hon. Member for Winnipeg—Fort Garry (Mr. Axworthy) which might help him make the best-sellers' list and at the same time clear up some of the confusion on the trade issue.

In a letter to *The Globe and Mail* today the Liberal Party's trade critic sees no contradictions in his Party's numerous stands on trade. He says his Party's contradictory policy resolutions endorsing free trade and condemning free trade are "confirmation of a truly Liberal approach to trade". The Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Turner) has come down firmly on both sides of the issue, thus giving us the Liberals' idea of policy leadership.

Can the Hon. Member for Winnipeg—Fort Garry reconcile his stand with that of the Liberal external affairs critic? Stay tuned. The Liberal trade critic's letter to the editor is an attempt at clarifying a very muddy pond. Perhaps he should talk to his Leader and the Hon. Member for Saint-Henri—Westmount (Mr. Johnston) to make sure that they do not drown each other. All this brings one to the inevitable question: will the real Leader of the New Democratic Party please stand up?

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PROVINCIAL AFFAIRS

ELECTION OF NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY CANDIDATE IN NEWFOUNDLAND PROVINCIAL BY-ELECTION

Mr. John R. Rodriguez (Nickel Belt): Mr. Speaker—

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

An Hon. Member: There he is!

Mr. Rodriguez: Mr. Speaker, yesterday was an historic day for the people of Newfoundland. The voters of St. John's East rejected the policies of provincial and federal Tories and elected a New Democrat in a riding which has been held by Conservatives since Confederation.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Rodriguez: In a nearby riding the Conservatives were only able to hold on by their fingernails—a very narrow win. These Newfoundland voters were rejecting the Conservative policies. They were rejecting policies which have cut services and raised prices to the fishing industry. They were rejecting policies which forced confrontations between working people and their government employers. And they were rejecting