

## S.O. 21

Opposition forgot to tell the whole truth, however. First, this is not the first time the Members for Winnipeg-Assiniboine (Mr. McKenzie) and Simcoe-South (Mr. Stewart) have spoken out against bilingualism in Canada, and the token statement made by one of the Members sounds like a strategic ploy. Second, only one Member made a public statement last Wednesday, and the Member for Simcoe-South does not seem to have made anything public yet. Third, Canadians would like to know what is happening to the McKenzie-Stewart fund, a subject that concerns all Canadians and which demands clarification.

The Leader of the Opposition should show the same courage and firmness displayed by the Party in power. Once again for the Progressive Conservatives, it was too little, too late.

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[English]

## LABOUR CONDITIONS

## RATE OF UNEMPLOYMENT IN NIAGARA REGION

**Mr. Girve Fretz (Erie):** Mr. Speaker, it is high time the Minister of Finance (Mr. Lalonde) took off his rose-coloured glasses and saw the economic situation of the country as it really is. He has been raving recently about the fact that we are finally emerging from the doom and gloom of the recession, to a new dawn. In his Budget speech he quoted figures which show that inflation is slowing and that interest rates are falling.

Will he now admit that everything is not sweetness and light? Is he aware that the jobless rate in the Niagara region is now at an unbelievable 17 per cent? Even taking into consideration the traditional winter slowdown in the economy, this is too high, and unacceptable.

The human tragedy is enormous. The Liberals have been in power for four years, and today we have 514,000 more jobless than when they took over. I believe that this is, in no small measure, due to the Budgets which have been tabled during that time. The Special Recovery Program is clearly a recovery for the rich and a sham for the poor.

In the Niagara region alone there were 10,499 on welfare last month. That is a lot of mouths to feed. If these people had work, they would be more than happy to take it. Yet there is no work. The Minister of Finance has failed to address the serious issue of job creation.

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## POLITICAL PARTIES

POSITION OF PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE PARTY ON  
GOVERNMENT DEFICIT

**Mr. John Evans (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council):** Mr. Speaker, in 1968 the Beatles released a delightful movie entitled *The Yellow Submarine*. Through song, a story was told about the struggle between the forces of

good and evil. The villains in this work of fiction were the Blue Meanies, who were eventually vanquished by the good citizens of Pepperland.

It is now 16 years later, and we hear the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Mulroney) and the Opposition finance critic, the Hon. Member for St. John's West (Mr. Crosbie), condemning the Government for not immediately reducing the deficit in last Wednesday's Budget. When asked what the Opposition would do about the deficit, the Hon. Member for St. John's West said, "You have to be mean, nasty, and do all sorts of unpleasant things... that's why I'm not going to outline what"—Tory policies—"would be now". From this it is clear that the Blue Meanies are back in human form, but now it is the people of Canada who face the insidious nightmare.

The chief Blue Meanie and his corpulent, evil-tempered henchman from St. John's West, are the rampage. They are joined by the "slasher" from York-Peel and the "sour sacker" from Capilano. Together they are Canada's Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse". People of Canada, rally to the defence of the social safety net, and demand that the mean, nasty and unpleasant people across the floor come clean with their plans for the future of our country.

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## PARLIAMENT OF CANADA

## DURATION OF PARLIAMENTS

**Hon. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Speaker, it is not my purpose to take part in an argument. In fact I am not even trying to predict the date of the federal election, whatever that date may be. However, it seems important to me that newspapers keep the rules straight on how the date plan is decided.

In this connection I draw attention to the fact that in 1930 there was an election whereby the Seventeenth Parliament was elected. That vote took place on July 28, 1930, and it was gazetted on August 15, 1930. Four years later R. B. Bennett decided that he wanted to delay the election, but he accepted the fact that because of the rule Parliament had to be dissolved on August 14, 1935. Then Mr. Bennett set the election date for October 14, 1935. I remember the date very well. Even though I was only 27 years of age, I ran in the general election that day and lost. At any rate, the Seventeenth Parliament lasted five years and two months, from one election to another.

Then in 1940 there was voting for the Nineteenth Parliament. That election was called on Tuesday, March 26, 1940, and it was gazetted on April 15, 1940. The result of that was that in 1945 the Nineteenth Parliament was dissolved on April 16 because it was a Monday, April 15 being a Sunday. Then it was arranged that the voting would take place on June 11, 1945. That was one of the elections I won. So did the Liberal Government.

These are two examples of the Government delaying for the full term of five years and two months. There are no other occasions of this, except in 1917 for the war election during