

Coach Craig Hartsburg deserves much of the credit for the team's success, along with every Storm player. Coach Hartsburg stresses the philosophy of team work both on and off the ice.

Guelph—Wellington fans look forward to the remaining games in the chase for the Memorial Cup. Like everything else we do, our hockey team has proven that Guelph—Wellington takes its opponents by storm.

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• (1110)

[Translation]

### 1980 REFERENDUM

**Mr. Roger Pomerleau (Anjou—Rivière-des-Prairies, BQ):** Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister's peculiar sense of humour reached unexpected cynical heights when he said yesterday in the House that Quebecers liked Mr. Trudeau's speech so much that they voted no in the 1980 referendum.

How could the Prime Minister say such a thing and really believe it? Between you and me, the Prime Minister certainly could not have been serious. He has undoubtedly forgotten the famous promise: "We are putting our seats on the line to bring about change; a no in the referendum will mean a yes to renewed federalism".

Quebecers remember that this promise was broken, and, for this reason, have elected few Liberal members of Parliament since 1984. The Prime Minister has once again demonstrated in the House that he has absolutely no understanding of the hopes and motivations of Quebecers.

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[English]

### GOVERNMENT BACKBENCHERS

**Mr. Chuck Strahl (Fraser Valley East, Ref.):** Mr. Speaker, every day in the House of Commons we are forced to witness a humiliating spectacle as government backbenchers rise to ask their own ministers the easy questions.

My heart goes out to these members as they perform their odious duty. I wonder what fears must cross their minds. What if they refuse? What if they make a mistake? What if the minister eager for the planted question misplaces his briefing notes?

It is refreshing that one backbencher, the member for York South—Weston, refuses to advise the front bench of his questions in advance. It is unfortunate that more Liberal backbenchers fail to place the interest of their constituents ahead of the party line.

Have pity for the lowly backbenchers today as they rise to lob beachballs at their political bosses. Pardon the ministers who

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make a sham out of question period by delivering speeches dressed up as answers. But most of all, pity the listening public which graciously endures the public daily humiliation of members who wish they could just say no.

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### LITERACY

**Mr. Bill Graham (Rosedale, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, this is literacy week in Canada.

The ability to read and write empowers people. It enables them to improve their position in an increasingly complex economy, to avail themselves of their rights and fulfil their duties in our country with its democratic privileges and responsibilities and to better understand themselves and the world around them.

[Translation]

Literacy is an essential element of every modern society and we can be proud of the fact that this government has named a minister responsible for literacy and has established a secretariat with the mandate of eliminating illiteracy nationwide.

[English]

Personally, I am very proud of Frontier College located in my Toronto riding and the leadership it provides in this field. It and other institutions like it and thousands of volunteers work on literacy programs that make an important contribution to our society.

If not addressed, illiteracy has heavy costs for Canada and for those individuals who struggle with the problem every day of their lives.

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### THE ECONOMY

**Mr. Murray Calder (Wellington—Grey—Dufferin—Simcoe, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, I rise in the House today to indicate my outrage that Moody's bond rating agency would place Canada's credit rating under review only two weeks before the federal budget comes down. Why did it not just place a horse's head in the Minister of Finance's bed?

We recognize that strong fiscal action is required. We are determined to meet our financial targets stated in the red book. Our deficit reduction target of 3 per cent of GDP is only an interim target while our long term goal is to eliminate the deficit in its entirety.

Canada's inflation is the lowest in the G-7. Our export growth is strong. StatsCanada's composite leading indicator grew by .6 per cent in January and wage settlements only grew by .3 per cent in 1994.

I think it is Moody's that should be watched.