

## VIA RAIL

## BRITISH RAIL BUS CONTRACT

**Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Winnipeg—Fort Garry):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to add my voice against the weekly campaign of desecration that the Mulroney Government is visiting upon my home Province of Manitoba.

**Mr. Malone:** Order!

**Mr. Axworthy:** The fact of the matter is that once again we have an example in which the Mulroney Government obviously—

**Mr. Malone:** Order!

**Mr. Speaker:** The Hon. Member knows that it is improper to use the name of the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) in the way in which he is using it. Would the Hon. Member continue his statement, please.

**Mr. Axworthy:** Mr. Speaker, it is sometimes hard to admit that, in fact, he is the Prime Minister of the Province of Manitoba.

I want to make the following point. The rail bus technology and the agreement we signed back in 1984 were an idea conceived in Manitoba. A local manufacturer was given the opportunity to carry out the design. The prototype work and the testing were done with the co-operation of the people in the North. Once it reaches a stage at which it is about ready to come to fulfilment, what does the present federal Government do? It decides to move it and contract with a British firm to do it.

It seems to me that in the case of the CF-18 the Government said it wanted to keep the transfer of technology in Canada. But now the Government has seemed to reverse itself. What it really seems to be saying is that it simply wants to mess up Manitoba.

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[Translation]

## POLITICAL PARTIES

## ALLEGED UTILIZATION OF PUBLIC FUNDS

**Mr. Gabriel Fontaine (Lévis):** Mr. Speaker, I would rather not comment on the open dissension and the collective anxiety of Liberals on the eve of their convention. However after reading an article in today's *La Presse* I am quite concerned over the fact that the Liberals are spending taxpayers' money to finance their convention.

Will the Liberal Member for Papineau (Mr. Ouellet), ex-Minister to boot, explain why he used public funds to make 56,000 photocopies of press clippings favourable to his boss? The Leader of the Liberal Party will have to enlighten the House today with respect to the behaviour of his third-ranking Quebec lieutenant. Can former Liberal Ministers not tell the difference between Parliament and their political Party, or are the Liberal Party coffers so bare that an ex-Minister would see fit to pick the pockets of other people?

S.O. 21

[English]

## INDIAN AFFAIRS

## REINSTATEMENT OF BAND STATUS—CALL FOR RESTORATION OF GOVERNMENT FUNDING

**Mr. John Parry (Kenora—Rainy River):** Mr. Speaker, the Government waxes eloquent about its compassion, sensitivity, and understanding of native concerns in Canada. Last year the House acted to reverse discrimination inherent in the Indian Act. All Parties agreed to the passage of Bill C-31 with the understanding and the commitment that funds would be provided to assist many of the 70,000 people who have applied for reinstatement.

The commitment has now been broken by the Government's refusal to continue funding for the co-implementation of Bill C-31. This means that nearly 100 trained native people can no longer do the leg-work, the research and, in many cases, the Translation work necessary to help correct decades of unjust discrimination.

By taking away this funding, Indian war veterans who lost their status to fight for this country will be on their own, as will children born out of wedlock, men who took work in Depression labour camps and, of course, native women who married non-natives.

The Government must act now to restore this funding to help many people regain the heritage that unjust laws took away.

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[Translation]

## THE DISABLED AND THE HANDICAPPED

## QUEBEC ASSOCIATION FOR LEISURE ACTIVITIES FOR THE HANDICAPPED

**Mr. Gabriel Desjardins (Témiscamingue):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to congratulate the *Association québécoise de loisirs pour personnes handicapées* or the Quebec recreation association for the handicapped for sponsoring last weekend's annual provincial prize award reception in Quebec City. I commend the association for showing such innovative and far-reaching leadership which makes it one of the major champions of Quebec's handicapped people. This annual event held by the association is aimed at highlighting the endeavours of municipalities and community groups to have the handicapped participate actively in the social activities of their locality. The Secretary of State was present and was duly impressed by the efficiency and professional approach of the reception organizers. The *Union des municipalités du Québec*, the *Union des municipalités régionales de comtés*, and all community associations which sent delegates deserve praise for their work and participation. Their strong support to promote the cause of the handicapped is the key factor of the unprecedented success of this important event.