

How embarrassing for the Bloc to have one of its members make such accusations. Talk about double talk. At last the Bloc is showing its true colours to francophone communities.

But when Paul Piché and Laurence Jalbert made it clear they were separatists, after receiving financial assistance from Canadian Heritage for the production of records and videos, did you hear any federalists insulting them?

• (1410)

Not at all, and it goes to show how open-minded federalists are, and we expected Bloc members would show the same respect for the opinions of others.

On behalf of the francophones of this country, I ask that the member of the Bloc withdraw, in this House, the slanderous term she used.

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[English]

FORUM FOR YOUNG CANADIANS

Ms. Jean Augustine (Etobicoke—Lakeshore, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, last evening I had the pleasure of meeting many participants of the Forum for Young Canadians. This yearly forum has once again brought together high school students from all across the country to learn firsthand the workings of our federal Parliament.

This year Etobicoke—Lakeshore is well represented by Melissa Jenkins of Bishop Allen Academy and Raphael Pacquing of Father John Redmond High School. These two students travelled to Ottawa to exchange ideas and explore their interests in the process of government, the media and the role of members of Parliament.

I commend the efforts of all who have contributed to the success of this year's forum. May these youths return to their communities across Canada with the knowledge this government is working hard to ensure a strong and prosperous country for future generations.

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[Translation]

QUEBEC SOVEREIGNTY

Mr. Roger Pomerleau (Anjou—Rivière-des-Prairies, BQ): Mr. Speaker, the English speaking Canadian intelligentsia met yesterday in Toronto, at the invitation of the C.D. Howe Institute, and indulged in a fit of Quebec-bashing the likes of which have seldom been seen.

These great democrats, full of *Canadian* patriotism, suggested that Quebecers be made to suffer in order to prevent a vote in favour of sovereignty. This idea was not only sanctioned but added to by political science expert Stéphane Dion, who suggested that "the more it will hurt, the more support for sovereignty will weaken".

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Since Stéphane Dion is now a freelancer working as an advisor to the Prime Minister of Canada, Quebecers gather that his statement reflects the position of the federal government.

I trust that Quebecers will, as they have done throughout their history, stand tall and defend their right to exist to the face of the world.

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[English]

LIBERAL RED BOOK

Mr. Grant Hill (MacLeod, Ref.): Mr. Speaker:

The red book full of promises
That we could count upon
If Liberals were elected
All our problems would be gone.
There'd be a kinder Parliament
With Liberals at the helm
And social programs all survive
We'd have no fears from them.

The budget's now behind us
And plain for all to see
That promises don't mean a lot
Without integrity.

Integrity you cannot buy
There is not much that's dearer
For each and every Liberal
Must look into the mirror.

But one lonely Liberal
Could not have said it better
Liberals have taken the famous red book
And stuffed it in the shredder!

The Speaker: I would appeal to all hon. members not to use props or to rip up props during the statements.

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RETIREMENT ALLOWANCES

Mr. John Solomon (Regina—Lumsden, NDP): Mr. Speaker, information acquired through access to information reveals that federal deputy ministers are receiving special retirement allowances of up to \$30,000 per year on top of their regular pensions.

The Treasury Board document points out this additional benefit to federal deputy ministers is equal to 2 per cent of the retiree's average salary during their six best years. This bonus is multiplied by the number of years a deputy minister works to a maximum of 10 years. The document states: "There is no minimum vesting period and no contributions are required from the deputy ministers".

The government has just cut 45,000 public servants from the payroll. There are also substantial cuts to agriculture and social programs. In view of these facts, will the finance minister and his Liberal government immediately rescind this abominable perk, this golden parachute enjoyed by richly paid deputy ministers? Or, will the highest paid civil servants continue to be protected and insulated by the Liberals from the harsh realities others in Canada with lesser incomes are now facing?