

this problem of language of work that might cause major problems for Air Canada.

As for language of service, Mr. Speaker, I maintain today that Air Canada has been required to use both for almost 20 years. It has gained some experience. The President and CEO of the company, Mr. Jeannot, said so in committee. It can be done very easily and with good will if the company just understands that it must serve the Canadian public in both official languages throughout its operations. I think that we already have good experience and some background in this.

I see no problems with equitable representation. It costs the company no more to hire competent people who reflect the country's demographic makeup. As I already said, I think that Air Canada already has some experience with all these questions. It is possible to do so and we must continue, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order! It being one o'clock, I do now leave the chair until two o'clock.

At 1 p.m. the House took recess.

#### AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 2 p.m.

### STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S. O. 21

[English]

#### OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

##### BILL C-72—POSITION OF QUÉBEC GOVERNMENT

**Hon. Warren Allmand (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce—Lachine East):** Mr. Speaker, Bill C-72 to amend the Official Languages Act says that the federal Government should support the language minorities in Canada including the anglophone minority in Quebec. The Meech Accord says that the English community in Quebec is part of the fundamental character of Canada and that the federal and provincial Governments must preserve this fundamental character.

Why then is the Quebec Government now questioning certain provisions of Bill C-72? Bill C-72 is totally consistent with the Meech Accord which Quebec initiated. The Meech Accord does not give priority to Quebec in language matters. Certain language rights were entrenched in the Constitution in 1867 and once again in 1982, and the federal Official Languages Act was enacted in 1970.

The Quebec Government should stop confusing the public on these issues. Language rights in Canada are fundamental and the promotion of one language should never be done at the expense of the other.

[Translation]

S. O. 21

### ITALIAN WEEK

#### TRIBUTE TO ITALIAN CANADIANS

**Mr. Claude Lanthier (LaSalle):** Mr. Speaker, on this occasion of Italy Week right here in Ottawa, it is a real pleasure and a great honour for me to respectfully salute all Italian Canadians, who have enriched our Canadian culture with their traditions that are so warm and colorful.

I wish to take this national opportunity to draw particular attention to the multicultural dimension of our wonderful constituency of LaSalle-Émard, which has two very active Italian parishes: Maria Madre Dei Christiani, ably led by Father Duchini, and San Giovanni Di Bosco, whose pastor is Father Piol.

Since we are not allowed to use the language of Dante, so rich as it is, in this House, I will simply use this expression known in all times and civilizations: "Bravo" to all Italian Canadians!

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[English]

### ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

#### APPEAL WON BY ALBERTA SCHOOLTEACHER AGAINST CONVICTION FOR INCITING HATRED

**Mr. Ernie Epp (Thunder Bay—Nipigon):** Mr. Speaker, it is not easy, in a society committed to freedom of speech, to curb abuse of that freedom. A blow for truth was struck with the conviction, in 1985, of James Keegstra for teaching Alberta high school students about a Jewish conspiracy he thinks is at work in world affairs.

The decision of the Alberta Court of Appeal to quash Keegstra's conviction illustrates the difficulty Canadians face in curbing lies and deceit used for racist purposes. Mr. Justice R. P. Kerans and his two colleagues assert that the Charter of Rights and Freedoms protects such freedom of speech and that the charge of inciting hatred against an identifiable group must be corroborated by evidence of such hatred and those exposed to the incitement.

An appeal to the Supreme Court of Canada regarding this decision is urgently needed. I urge the Minister of Justice (Mr. Hnatyshyn) to support the Attorney General of Alberta in obtaining an early hearing by the Supreme Court of Canada.

Canadians want to know what the limits on freedom of speech are in our multicultural society. They need to be assured that incitement to hatred against identifiable groups will not flourish under Charter protection.