

S. O. 21

[Translation]

MULTICULTURALISM

THE CANADA OF TOMORROW

Mr. Marcel Prud'homme (Saint-Denis): Mr. Speaker, we have talked a lot about multiculturalism this week, and so I thought that today, we would give a concrete example of what multiculturalism means, and that is why I decided to invite, from Montreal, people like Father Saitanis, Father Salatellis, Mr. Crilis and a number of youngsters who, at age 10, 12 and 14 speak excellent French and excellent English and who, above all, have the greatest respect for their culture and traditions—the culture and traditions of Greece. This is more or less the speech I wanted to make on multiculturalism, the speech I didn't have time to make. It is this concrete example we see today which is a symbol of the Canada we are building together, the Canada of tomorrow.

* * *

● (1405)

THE PRIME MINISTER

TRIBUTE TO PRINCIPAL SECRETARY

Mr. Guy St-Julien (Abitibi): Mr. Speaker, today I would like to pay tribute to Bernard Roy, Principal Secretary of the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) since 1984, who is leaving us this week to go back to Montreal. Quebecers and Canadians are aware of the fundamental role played by Mr. Roy in this Government, and we have all been able to appreciate his integrity, wisdom and strength of character, and his exemplary performance.

Mr. Speaker, we are sad to see Mr. Roy leave us, but I am sure that his wife Madeleine and his son Philippe will agree that our loss is their gain. Thank you, Bernard!

* * *

[English]

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS

MINIMUM WAGE RATES

Mr. Cyril Keeper (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, when a federal government contract is announced for some region of the country, most people generally react as though the region has been given a gift, or a little bit of pork, if we want to use the vernacular, but this is not true for everybody who is at the receiving end of those contracts.

The P.E.I. Dump Truck Association was before the Government Operations Committee and pointed out to us that it is the experience of its members that they get ripped off. While money is included in the original contract bid to cover

the cost of hauling by dump truck, the wages and fees they are paid are bid downward and they work at a very marginal rate.

In response to this, the Government Operations Committee has recommended that the Minister of Public Works (Mr. McInnes) take action to adopt the minimum fees that provinces put in place for the same sort of work, and that a little bit of justice be extended to these small independent entrepreneurs.

* * *

VOLUNTARY ORGANIZATIONS

TRIBUTE TO 4-H CLUB MOVEMENT

Mr. Felix Holtmann (Selkirk—Interlake): Mr. Speaker, "I pledge my head to clear thinking, my heart to greater loyalty, my hands to larger service, my health to better living, for my club, my community and my country".

With those chosen words, Mr. Speaker, tens of thousands of Canadians have become members of 4-H clubs, broadened their horizons and enhanced their lives.

The 4-H movement was founded 75 years ago by Mr. E. Ward Jones, Director of Extension Services in Agriculture at the University of Manitoba. The very first clubs were known as Boys and Girls Clubs and were formed in the towns of Roland, Starbuck, Warren, Darlingford, Manitou, Stonewall, Oak Lake, and Neepawa in the Province of Manitoba. In 1952, clubs became known as 4-H clubs.

I would ask this House to congratulate with me and acknowledge the tremendous benefit this great organization has provided for Canada's youth over the past 75 years.

* * *

ENVIRONMENT CANADA

CLOSURE OF ATMOSPHERIC ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICES

Mr. Dave Dingwall (Cape Breton—East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to the attention of the House Environment Canada's plan to close up to 50 Environment Canada atmospheric environmental offices across the country.

These offices are being closed due to technological and scientific improvements in the atmospheric environmental service, according to environmental officials. I applaud any move by Environment Canada to improve our weather forecasting service. However, I would like to caution the Minister that technology and machines should only be used to help augment the human capacity, not to replace it.

The Minister will know that many farmers, fishermen and other primary producers rely heavily on their local weather stations for accurate weather reporting. To remove this service