

## S.O. 21

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I would like to point out that the only province that was politically hostile and refused to offer any co-operation at the ministerial level with respect to preparing for and organizing the conference, was unfortunately, my home province, the province of Quebec. I think it is unfortunate, because for the benefit of all Canadians, the Government—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. The Hon. Member's time has expired. The Hon. Member for Winnipeg-Birds Hill (Mr. Blaikie).

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[English]

## BANK ACT

## ROYAL BANK'S CAR BUY-BACK PROGRAM

**Mr. Bill Blaikie (Winnipeg-Birds Hill):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to recall the attention of the House to the issue of the Royal Bank's car buy-back loan program, an issue which was previously raised by my colleague, the Hon. Member for Winnipeg North (Mr. Orlikow), on May 11.

Automobile dealers in my riding have expressed to me what I think should be a concern of all of us in the House, that the Royal Bank may be flouting the will of Parliament by implementing what could well be argued is the leasing of vehicles, an idea which the House rejected when we last debated the Bank Act. It was the clear intent of the House at that time that banks not be allowed to get into the business of leasing vehicles. The Royal Bank's buy-back plan, for all practical purposes, is a form of closed-end leasing under a different name.

The Minister of State for Finance (Mr. MacLaren) indicated to my colleague on May 11 that the Royal Bank plan was under review and that, when the review was completed, he would be able to give an answer. I call upon him to come forward soon and indicate whether the Government intends to let the Royal Bank get away with this or whether it intends to do something about it.

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● (1410)

## THE CONSTITUTION

## UNDERLYING PRINCIPLES—PLEA FOR PROCLAMATION OF DAY OF PRAYER

**Mr. Bill Yurko (Edmonton East):** Mr. Speaker, the very first paragraph in the Constitution Act, 1981, which is Canada's Constitution, states: "Whereas Canada is founded upon the principles that recognize the supremacy of God and the rule of law."

Just how would the Supreme Court interpret and uphold these principles? So I dare ask this Parliament, which passed this Constitution Act, what are these principles? Where are they transcribed? How is this nation, Canada, which is found-

ed upon these principles, to know these principles? Are these principles taught in our schools, in our homes, in our churches, or in our institutions?

On November 23, 1983, I suggested in this assembly that this Parliament proclaim a Day of Prayer in Canada in early 1984, a day on which each of us might dwell upon these principles, a day on which we might all pray for world peace and brotherhood, a day on which each of us, after his or her own manner, can quietly recognize the supremacy of God.

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[Translation]

## FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL RELATIONS

## TRANSFER PAYMENTS TO QUEBEC

**Mr. Jean-Guy Dubois (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Employment and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, yesterday I made a statement under the provisions of Standing Order 21 about fiscal transfer payments to the province of Quebec.

Today I noticed, and my hon. friend for Lac-Saint-Jean (Mr. Gimaiel) will corroborate me on this, an article in the newspaper *La Presse* which reported some comments made by the Member for Argenteuil in the National Assembly, Mr. Claude Ryan, who gave some very telling figures. I want to congratulate him and thank him for what he said to the PQ counterparts in Quebec, namely, that if the provinces have the means "to provide plans for free health insurance, hospital insurance, and school and university tuition programs, it is because federal transfer payments made these plans possible. We could not have done this alone. We must realize that! And when we are talking about the pros and cons of the federal system, these are points that must be conceded." Mr. Ryan also commented that between 1974 and 1984, transfer payments received by Quebec from Ottawa increased by 346 per cent. During the same period, Quebec's own tax revenues increased by only 240 per cent. Federal transfer payments represented the following percentages of the federal Budget: 4 per cent in 1937, rising to 8 per cent in 1960 and 20 per cent in 1983. Those are the advantages of Canadian federalism and that is the kind of thing Quebecers should be told, to encourage them to remain in Confederation and continue to be a part of Canada. The province of Quebec must continue to be a part of this country!

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## AGRICULTURE

## FINANCIAL AID PROMISED TO UPA BY CERTAIN LIBERAL MEMBERS

**Hon. Roch La Salle (Joliette):** Over a month ago, Mr. Speaker, Quebec UPA spokesmen and certain Government Members met with the Minister of Agriculture to seek finan-