

S.O. 22

citizens in Crime Prevention Week will be all the more worth while.

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ABORIGINAL PEOPLES

INUIT POLITICAL AND CULTURAL SURVIVAL

Mr. Thomas Suluk (Nunatsiag): Mr. Speaker, this fall the Canadian Government in its strong show of Arctic sovereignty indicated to northern residents that the true North will once again be made strong and free. I would like to take this opportunity to assure the Members of the House and all Canadians that the Inuit have always had a strong history of political and cultural survival.

On the political front we are on the verge of taking over the terrified territorial Government through division of the Northwest Territories. Aboriginal rights and land claims are also close to being completed.

Current Inuit cultural endeavours include over eight hours of daily radio broadcasting in Inuktitut across eastern and central Arctic regions. These programs cover everything from current issues to stories featuring past traditions. In fact the national news is read in Inuktitut daily. Television broadcasts produced by the Inuit Broadcasting Corporation offer similar programs of interest which link Inuit with their historical roots as well as the current affairs of the day.

On behalf of all Inuit I would like to make it known that we are not an endangered species. Because of our presence the true North is strong and free, and will remain so for the next several hundred years.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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[Translation]

PUBLIC SERVICE

GOVERNMENT'S ATTITUDE TOWARD ITS EMPLOYEES

Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry-Prescott-Russell): Mr. Speaker, the Government's attitude towards Public Service employees is altogether unacceptable. Ever since it came into office the Government has been responsible for the lay-offs of thousands of public servants, and it intends to proceed with the elimination of many other jobs over the next few years without any due consideration for the services rendered to the Canadian public by these loyal and devoted employees.

The Conservatives are trying to reduce the deficit at the expense of public servants, yet they squander taxpayers' money as a result of their ill-advised decisions respecting the banks—this will cost over \$1 billion—not to mention certain Ministers' abuses to refurbish their offices, grossly inflated salaries paid to their executive assistants, limousines and other such excessive expenditures by the Conservative Party.

Public servants have never been so demoralized, Mr. Speaker, almost as much as House employees are right now. The Prime Minister had promised to provide public servants with the tools required to boost productivity. By letting the sword of Damocles hang over their heads, does he really expect to maintain good relations between his Government and Public Service employees? It is unfair, Mr. Speaker, and the Prime Minister should make amends to Canadians and public servants for having deluded them in the past.

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[English]

THE SENATE

HOURLY WAGE RATE ADVOCATED

Mr. Rod Murphy (Churchill): Mr. Speaker, the Government claims it is always looking for ways of cutting Government costs and has asked opposition Members to give their suggestions. I have an idea which I am sure all Members, especially the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson) and the President of the Treasury Board (Mr. de Cotret), will find very hard to resist implementing.

Research I have done into the length of time the Senate sits to debate legislation which has already been passed by the House of Commons clearly casts serious doubts on the Senate's role of sober second thought.

● (1410)

This October presents a particularly good example of how cost effective my idea is, as well as how inefficient the present Senate is, given the cost associated with its operation. During the whole month of October the Senate sat for only 10 hours and 10 minutes. Taking into account the total Senate budget, this works out to approximately \$22,277 per Senator for a 10-hour work month.

Given the Government's preference for contracting out work, I would suggest that it makes sense to go one step further and contract out the Senate. It makes even greater sense to pay those people at an hourly wage rate.

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[Translation]

PEACE

FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF UNITED NATIONS ORGANIZATION

Mr. Jean-Pierre Blackburn (Jonquière): Mr. Speaker, a few days ago, I had the pleasure of tabling a petition in the House on behalf of a group of children, and I am referring to the pupils of the Treffle-Gauthier primary school in Jonquière.

Mr. Speaker, on the 40th anniversary of the UN, these children gave me a message of peace which they asked me to transmit to this House.