

[Translation]

### THE LATE JEAN-CLAUDE LABEL

**Mr. Guy Saint-Julien (Abitibi):** Mr. Speaker, this afternoon I would like to draw the attention of honourable members to the sudden passing of a senior federal official.

Yesterday, we were told about the death of Mr. Jean-Claude Label, who for the past three years had been deputy minister responsible for the Federal Office of Regional Development—Quebec, of which he was both the principal artisan and leading light.

He will be remembered by his employees, his federal and Quebec counterparts and his many co-workers and friends, not only as a dedicated and tireless public servant but also as an ardent defender of regional development in Quebec.

Speaking on behalf of all members of the Quebec Conservative caucus and on behalf of the members of this House, I wish to offer our sincere condolences to Mr. Label's family.

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[English]

### BILL C-80

**Mr. Chris Axworthy (Saskatoon—Clark's Crossing):** Mr. Speaker, I rise today to advise Canadians that this government is ignoring the democratic process by rushing Bill C-80 through committee stage, denying experts in the field who unanimously oppose this legislation an opportunity to appear before the committee.

This bill hammers the last nail in the coffin of universality and will profoundly affect the lives of poor children. Yet the groups and individuals who work on the front lines dealing with these children are being denied the chance to say how the bill affects them.

• (1410)

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of National Health and Welfare has said that she does not see the need for social policy groups to present briefs to the committee because the bill is essentially a tax bill. Even the Minister of National Health and Welfare, the minister responsible for children, is not slated to appear.

### S. O. 31

When will the government stop looking to expensive tax lawyers for answers and start listening to what hungry children and advocates are saying?

I urge members of the government side to keep the debate open, even though they might not want to hear what the experts are going to say, and allow witnesses the time they need to present briefs to the committee. When is the government going to listen to the ruinous effects its policies are having on Canada's children?

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### IMMIGRATION

**Mr. Garth Turner (Halton—Peel):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Bernard Valcourt, the Minister of Employment and Immigration, for bringing some common sense to our immigration system. In my riding, in town hall meetings, in my mail and in personal interventions, constituents of Halton—Peel have been asking for a system that is fair, that costs less to run for taxpayers, and yet maintains the humanitarian reputation of Canada.

Among the much-needed reforms we now see is a guarantee that refugees coming to this country will be legitimate. Speedy family reunification for immigrants allowed into Canada, encouraging immigrants to come here who have the skill and capital that Canada needs, and positioning those immigrants in the geographic areas where they are needed in this country and finally, tough new rules to keep criminals and terrorists out of Canada.

These are simple requests from the people of my riding and I would like to thank the minister for listening. As we all know, the government that listens is the government that lasts.

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### ATLANTIC CANADA OPPORTUNITIES AGENCY

**Mr. Lawrence MacAulay (Cardigan):** Mr. Speaker, on April 6, 1992 I placed a question on the Order Paper related to projects funded by the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency and requested a response within 45 days.

Today is the 72nd day since I made my request and I have not yet received a response.