

## S. O. 31

[Translation]

## SENIOR CITIZENS

**Mr. Jacques Vien (Laurentides):** Mr. Speaker, last week I had the privilege of attending two meetings of senior citizens clubs in my riding. I am referring to *L'Âge d'or de Saint-Jovite* and *Le Cercle d'amitié de Lafontaine*.

The number of senior citizens is increasing steadily, and seniors are becoming more and more active in a variety of areas. That is the case in my riding as well, and I am delighted. I am proud to see that senior citizens are trying to take the place that is rightfully theirs in the community.

I would like to pay tribute to all senior citizens who regularly participate in community activities. They have demonstrated that seniors are dynamic and are making a very significant and very enriching contribution to society.

\* \* \*

[English]

## MARGARET THATCHER

**Mr. Lee Richardson (Calgary Southeast):** Mr. Speaker, a remarkable era in British politics ended last month as Margaret Thatcher stepped down after serving as Prime Minister of that country for eleven and one-half years.

I rise today to pay tribute to this great world leader and remarkable statesperson. Mrs. Thatcher's pragmatic approach to complex issues, as well as her undaunting commitment to freedom and the free enterprise system, were trademarks of her political career that were best demonstrated by her valuable contribution to the ending of the cold war and the opening of eastern Europe.

Here in Canada, Thatcher's opposition to the common agricultural policy of the European Economic Community has been appreciated by our prairie farmers, given the economic consequence they have suffered as a result of that trade distorting welfare program.

Mrs. Thatcher never shied away from her iron lady image, which she earned from the Soviet media for her opposition to communism and unwavering support of the

NATO alliance. I salute the iron lady. She is an inspiration to us all.

\* \* \*

## RACIAL TOLERANCE

**Mrs. Shirley Maheu (Saint-Laurent—Cartierville):** Mr. Speaker, I rise today to draw your attention to the growing intolerance faced by Canada's Muslim and Arabic population.

As Canada and the west prepare to go to war with Saddam Hussein, too many commentaries and images have portrayed Iraqis and other Arab peoples as the new enemies of the west. This is racism pure and simple and must never be allowed to go unchallenged.

[Translation]

Statements inciting hatred against any identifiable group should be vigorously condemned by all members of the House. I want to ask the Minister of State (Multiculturalism) to take up the defence of Moslem and Arab groups in Canada. It is the very least we can do, Mr. Speaker.

\* \* \*

[English]

## LABOUR DISPUTES

**Mr. Steve Butland (Sault Ste. Marie):** Mr. Speaker, the Conservative government has really taken its lack of caring for the unemployed of this country to the limit. The infamous 85 per cent call-back rule before workers are entitled to UI has been turned down by a local board of referees, by an umpire and by the Federal Court of this country.

Not to worry, the government has not given up in its fight against the unemployed. It has appealed the decision to the Supreme Court to ensure that even when a labour dispute ends, workers will not qualify for UI.

I have received indications from labour lawyers and government officials that the Supreme Court decision may be lost by the government. However, faced with this possibility, once again it has demonstrated a total lack of compassion. The government is now suggesting that with the new improved Bill C-21, which supersedes the old bill which is even more stringent, it can disregard the ruling by the Supreme Court.