

WINTERLUDE 1990

Mrs. Beryl Gaffney (Nepean): Madam Speaker, the temperature in the National Capital Region dropped overnight and as the final ingredient for another successful Winterlude the weather kicked into gear.

Thanks to all the volunteers and organizers, the people of the National Capital Region and the more than the million tourists who come to the nation's capital to participate in the ten-day party, Winterlude, 1990, can begin.

This year's theme is distinctly Denmark and promises to be the best ever. So put on your toque and mitts and have some fun. See the ice sculptures, watch the races and the fireworks, go for a skate on the canal while feasting on a beaver tail. Take a sleigh ride and cheer on the participants in the many competitions. Laugh with the clowns and watch the barrel jumpers. Enjoy the culinary dishes available at every turn. More than 300 events will take place over the next ten days so participate and enjoy.

In my constituency of Nepean we too will have programs. Hot air balloons and kites will fly the air tonight. The nation's capital is ready. The people are energetic. The weather is perfect.

Some hon. members: Hear, hear!

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[Translation]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

Mrs. Suzanne Duplessis (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of State (Science and Technology)): Madam Speaker, this morning we have every reason to rejoice, since President de Klerk of South Africa has made a start with reforms, announcing he will release leader Nelson Mandela and showing his willingness to negotiate in order to unban the Africa National Congress and other factions that want recognition of human rights in South Africa. This step is partly the result of pressure by Commonwealth countries.

Since 1985, our Prime Minister and Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Clark) have worked very hard to fight apartheid and to support recognition of the rights of our black brothers in South Africa. I want to congratulate them, and I also wish to mention the courage shown by our Prime Minister at the Commonwealth Confer-

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ence in Vancouver in October 1987, and on so many other occasions.

I would urge President de Klerk to persevere, and I think all Canadians should be delighted with the first step made this morning.

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ALLEGED COMMENTS OF MINISTER

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton—Melville): Madam Speaker, in this morning's *Journal de Montréal*, the federal Minister of Labour (Mr. Corbeil), who is the minister responsible for Montreal, said: "If Montreal's economy is in decline, it is mainly due to an ignorant labour force."

Madam Speaker, "an ignorant labour force". Is the Labour Minister speaking on behalf of the federal government when he says that about the working people of Montreal? Do his colleagues here from Quebec agree with the Minister of Labour of Canada? This morning, Madam Speaker, the Prime Minister is in Chambly for a by-election. Does the Prime Minister agree with his minister that the Montreal labour force is ignorant? If the Prime Minister agrees, will he repeat it to the voters of Chambly this morning? Or if he completely disagrees with his Labour Minister who said that this morning in Chambly, will he apologize on behalf of his minister? It is quite important, Madam Speaker!

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[English]

SOUTH AFRICA

Mr. J. W. Bud Bird (Fredericton—York—Sunbury): Madam Speaker, with the announcements received today from South Africa's President de Klerk about proposed new directions toward the elimination of racial discrimination in that country, the world takes another giant step forward in the historic journal of global civilization.

This will be encouraging good news for all nations but particularly so for the Commonwealth countries whose efforts to promote reform in South Africa have been diligent and dedicated for a very long time. Canada has played a major role in these respects and credit is due both to our Prime Minister and to the Secretary of State for External Affairs for their personal stands and influ-