

S. O. 31

[English]

LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Mr. Peter L. McCreath (South Shore): Mr. Speaker, 30 years ago this spring John F. Kennedy was President of the United States, Harold Macmillan was Prime Minister of Great Britain, John Diefenbaker was Prime Minister of Canada and the Toronto Maple Leafs won the Stanley Cup.

I would like to bring to the attention of this House that yesterday marked the 30th anniversary of the first election of the Leader of the Opposition to this House. I am sure all members will join me in congratulating him on his many years of service to his party and to our country.

During those years this hon. gentleman has held many high offices, none higher than the one he holds today. There is one higher that has eluded him. Alas, my sense of history tells me it will continue to elude him. I must tell you, Mr. Speaker, I am a great prognosticator so you should listen to that point.

Nevertheless, as we approach the election that will, I suspect, mark the twilight of his career I invite all hon. members to join me in paying tribute to the leader of the Liberal Party on this auspicious anniversary.

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CANADIAN WHEAT BOARD

Mr. Vic Althouse (Mackenzie): Mr. Speaker, taking barley sales to the United States out of Wheat Board jurisdiction is a return to the bad old days of grain marketing. A Conservative-Liberal union government created the first single-desk Wheat Board during World War I largely to save grain traders who had sold more paper than there was wheat. Farmers quickly learned the benefits of single-desk selling but the government took that privilege away for another 15 years until a dying Conservative government introduced a voluntary board in 1935.

The voluntary board clearly did not work and was made compulsory in the early 1940s for wheat, oats and barley. I know the Minister of Agriculture and the Conservative Party have never liked single-desk selling.

To even consider taking barley sales to the U.S. away from the board demonstrates that. When I see the government deliberately undermining Wheat Board marketing power, which means lower barley prices to farmers, I can no longer believe the government's protestations of support for the Wheat Board, supply management or farmers. Its actions speak louder than its words.

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[Translation]

BARRIERE LAKE ALGONQUINS

Mr. Guy Saint-Julien (Abitibi): Mr. Speaker, in 1991, a trilateral agreement was reached on an integrated management plan for renewable resources, covering forestry and wildlife in an area of about 10,000 square kilometres, partly located in the La Vérendrye wildlife reserve and surrounding area in Quebec.

• (1405)

The Barrriere Lake Algonquins were proud of the work done by all parties to this agreement and, personally, I see it as a good example of how they and both levels of government were able to co-operate to ensure that aboriginal people can look forward to a better future and do so within the context of a new relationship.

Today, the Algonquins have former Liberal Environment Minister Clifford Lincoln as their negotiator. On April 16 Mr. Lincoln said this went beyond the question of logging operations in La Vérendrye Park. Now the First Nations are involved.

What a fuss about a 20 or 60 metre strip of forest.

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[English]

FISHERIES

Mr. Francis G. LeBlanc (Cape Breton Highlands—Canso): Mr. Speaker, where is the minister of fisheries hiding? For months he has been promising that by April there would be a federal compensation package to support communities in eastern Nova Scotia devastated by last December's quota cuts. April is more than half over and there has still been no announcement.