

China or because they were racially Chinese—we're not exactly sure which.

However, we are sure that our predecessors in this House of Commons were morally wrong in imposing such a tax.

For Canadians, part of the legacy of this discriminatory legislation, which carried on until 1947, is an obligation to admit the moral wrong and learn from our history, and to provide redress to those materially harmed.

This legacy also includes a diminishing number of lonely old men who paid the tax but could not bring their families, leaving them alone in their new homeland. To these men, this House owes an acknowledgement, an apology and repayment of the tax, however token or symbolic that may be. To all Canadian society, including those of Chinese origin, we owe a mechanism for redress to manifest our collective awareness and our national coming of age in a multiracial world.

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SPRING

Mr. Benno Friesen (Surrey—White Rock): Mr. Speaker, I am here to emphasize to our colleagues in the House and to the country at large that British Columbia is a haven for many people who move there from the rest of Canada; thousands of people are migrating to British Columbia, and for very good reason.

Today we are announcing that spring has already arrived in British Columbia. While on the one hand people go to British Columbia, to places like Whistler to enjoy skiing, just a few minutes away, a few miles down the road, we are already enjoying the balmy spring weather.

So since spring has arrived, we want the rest of the country to know that spring in Canada always begins in British Columbia. It is the first place to which it comes. British Columbia is a great place to visit and even greater place to live. The flowers that have been distributed to all members in the House today are a symbol of spring having arrived in British Columbia.

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IMMIGRATION

Mr. Dan Heap (Trinity—Spadina): Mr. Speaker, a few months ago the immigration commission and minister planned to deport two refugee claimants, Simon Mwindi and Abdilahi Hantoosh, back to Kenya. Outbreaks of government violence in Kenya rightly prompted the minister to stay the deportations. Again she recently ordered them deported as of today, but after phone calls, telegrams and a demonstration in front of her constituency office, she again stayed these deportations. Yet she seems unwilling to consider Kenya a repressive, refugee producing country.

However, the truth is that demonstrators in Kenya have been killed, wounded or arrested by the military of President Arap Moi. On March 1, Moi banned all demonstrations, announcing: "From now on, the government will not allow demonstrations of any kind in the country".

I urge the minister to place a moratorium on all deportations to Kenya and consider landing these refugee claimants on humanitarian grounds. After all, even the Canadian government that has banned free speech within 50 metres of Parliament ought not to send Kenyans to likely prison or death.

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[Translation]

CATHOLIC CLERGY

Mr. Charles DeBlois (Montmorency—Orléans): Mr. Speaker, last Friday, the head of the Catholic Church, Pope John Paul II, announced the appointment of Monsignor Maurice Couture as Archbishop of Quebec City. The new primate of the Church in Canada is a man of great dedication who has always been very much aware of the needs of the least advantaged in our society. A communicator and a man of commitment, this member of the Order of Saint Vincent de Paul has always been very involved in working with young people, both in the "patros" and in education, the latter as director and founder of the Saint-Augustin Seminary near Quebec City.

Mr. Speaker, I welcome the appointment of this man of action as head of the oldest diocese in North America,