

S. O. 31

**RACIAL DISCRIMINATION**

**Mr. J.W. Bud Bird (Fredericton—York—Sunbury):** Mr. Speaker, two days from now on the first day of spring the world commemorates and reaffirms its commitment to the elimination of racial discrimination. We in Canada are especially enriched by the many races and cultures which comprise our population.

Our government has established the legislative framework for a society which should become free of racism; most notably, through such statutes as the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, the Employment Equity Act and Canada's Multiculturalism Act.

There is still a sad reality, however, that racism and bigotry remain everyday facts of life. These demeaning attitudes violate the dignity of those they attack and they devastate the very fabric of our society.

It is time for each of us to recognize that diversity is the essence of Canadianism. It is the combination of tolerance, goodwill and respect for every citizen, regardless of race, language, colour or creed that makes us a distinctive society among the nations of the world. Multiculturalism is an asset that benefits every one of us, culturally, socially and economically.

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[Translation]

**DEBT SERVICING AND REDUCTION FUND**

**Mr. Gilles Bernier (Beauce):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to read a letter I sent to Mr. Wilson, the Minister of Finance, on March 7:

Mr. Minister,

The Budget you brought down on February 26 proposed to create a special fund into which will flow net GST revenues, plus the profits on the sale of Crown corporations that will be privatized and all private contributions.

All monies from the special fund will be used to pay off this country's enormous deficit.

Mr. Minister, I am enclosing a personal cheque for \$100 which I would like to see applied to the deficit reduction fund. I hope many more Canadians will do likewise, and especially members of Parliament.

In addition to the taxes we pay, a joint effort is in order, and I am convinced that many Canadians would be willing to do their share.

Furthermore, members of the Government and Parliament will be asked to accept a drop in income. I do so gladly, because I realize that the economic situation demands it. Next December, I will be glad to do so again.

Mr. Speaker, in concluding I would like to share with you an old Chinese saying: As the river returns to the sea, so what man gives comes back to him.

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• (1410)

[English]

**CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION**

**Mrs. Marlene Catterall (Ottawa West):** Mr. Speaker, our country was built and strengthened by communication links: rail, air, the post office and the national public broadcasting system.

During this perilous time when Canada seems to be slipping into a regional mentality, the CBC must provide a strong national voice and a sense of shared value and purpose.

[Translation]

Canada is a cultural mosaic that thrives on diversity. However, this diversity must be nurtured. If we do not know and do not understand our differences, whether they are geographical, cultural, social or economic, we lose our common goals as a nation.

Here in the National Capital Region, programming produced locally by English and French television networks has made it possible for Francophones and Anglophones in eastern Ontario and western Quebec to share what they have in common, to laugh and cry, and to live together in harmony.

[English]

CBC has helped us to show the country and each other we are more than a national capital. We are a vibrant community that is a microcosm of the nation.

The decision to axe local programming will diminish the important role of the CBC in our community and in all communities. Local programming is essential to Canadian unity, and we urge the government, which is busy dismantling our national institutions, to listen.

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**ATLANTIC CANADA OPPORTUNITIES AGENCY**

**Mr. Greg Thompson (Carleton—Charlotte):** Mr. Speaker, small business in south-western New Brunswick got some welcome news this past weekend