S.O. 21

However, our commitment does not stop there. As a matter of fact, we want to further this commitment, and announcements to that effect will be made over the next few weeks.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please! I must regretfully interrupt the Minister.

It being one o'clock, I do now leave the Chair until two o'clock.

At 1 p.m., the House took recess.

AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 2 p.m. [English]

Mr. Speaker: Order. At the request of the Official Opposition, the introduction of a new Member will take place after Statements pursuant to Standing Order 21. I would hope that the House would agree that, under the circumstances, there should be the full 15 minutes for Statements by Members, followed by the full Question Period with the interruption, of course, for the introduction of the new Member.

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S.O. 21

[Translation]

LIBERAL PARTY

RESULTS OF GALLUP POLL

Mr. Jean-Claude Malépart (Montreal—Sainte-Marie): This is a great day, Mr. Speaker, because this morning's newspapers reported on a Gallup poll clearly showing that the Progressive Conservative Government is in a free fall and the Liberal Party on the rise.

It is also a great day because, in a few minutes, Hon. Members will be extending a warm welcome to the successful candidate in the Saint-Maurice election, our colleague Mr. Grondin. Mr. Speaker, I should think that the Progressive Conservative Government and the Right Hon. the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) are getting a very clear message: Canadians generally and Quebecers in particular can hardly wait to turf the Conservative gang right out.

(1405)

[English]

INDIAN AFFAIRS

DEPARTMENTAL ADMINISTRATION IN MANITOBA

Mr. Keith Penner (Cochrane—Superior): Mr. Speaker, this week's resignation of the Director of Finance in the Manitoba region of the Department of Indian Affairs has lifted the lid a little higher on the unholy administrative mess which exists in that Department.

Let it be known by all Hon. Members that in many areas—education, child welfare, and local government—the Indian people of Manitoba have led the way in self-government. However, at every turn they are frustrated by a Department which will not let go and wants to continue controlling, dominating, and monitoring them. Even more serious, funds appropriated by Parliament for Indian people do not get to them in the way in which we in the House intend.

An inefficient, maladministered Department soaks up a huge portion of these funds and directs them at will, in open defiance of Parliament and of the Minister himself. It is our task as Members of Parliament to reveal these facts and to demand a new relationship between the Government of Canada and the Indian people of the country.

CANADIAN ARMED FORCES

ELECTION CAMPAIGN VOLUNTEERS—PROHIBITION ON ACCESS TO MILITARY BASES

Mr. Derek Blackburn (Brant): Mr. Speaker, it is a shame that the new Minister of National Defence (Mr. Beatty) is continuing his Government's policy of making Armed Forces personnel and their families into second-class citizens. In this case, volunteers in provincial election campaigns are being forbidden to set foot on military bases. This is ridiculous.

People living on bases are affected by provincial government actions. They have the right to elect a provincial Government of their choice. They should be allowed to receive information so that they can make an informed, intelligent choice on election day.

No one is urging the Armed Forces to take part in some sinister plot. Political Parties are merely urging people on military bases to exercise their basic constitutional right to make a choice in a democratic election. Even the former Associate Minister of National Defence could not justify keeping candidates off military bases. He admitted: "It's hard to come up with a reason why you wouldn't allow that on military bases in this day and age".