

## ILLITERACY

**Ms. Margaret Mitchell (Vancouver East):** Mr. Speaker, today the International Book Voyage sponsored by the movement for Canadian literacy is being launched. Representing B.C. is Larry Loyie, a native Canadian who attended literacy programs at Carnegie Centre in Vancouver East.

Two years ago Larry was functionally illiterate. Now, due to his persistence, he is a creative writer who is helping others. This morning the minister said over four million Canadians are functionally illiterate. This wasted potential has serious personal, social and economic consequences. Yet literacy programs in Vancouver, and I expect elsewhere, accommodate only 2 per cent of illiterate persons. Language and literacy needs of many immigrants are being ignored.

I call on the minister to ensure ongoing funding for literacy programs so that the International Year of Literacy will not have been in vain, and so that Canada will benefit from the expanded potential of our people.

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[Translation]

## THE MINISTRY

**Mr. Guy Saint-Julien (Abitibi):** Mr. Speaker, the sports community is deeply saddened by the resignation of the Hon. Jean Charest, rightfully acknowledged as the best Minister of Sports Canada has ever had. At the Saskatoon Games as well as at the Quebec Games in Val-d'Or I was able to see for myself just how simple and human the Hon. Jean Charest, Member for Sherbrooke, was with athletes and organizers who approached him to discuss various issues.

The Hon. Jean Charest has also earned the full respect of the international constituency both for his position on drug use by athletes and for his strong defence of Canada's sports policy at the *Jeux de la francophonie*. He was also deeply concerned over other issues such as the predicament of young secondary school drop-outs in Canada and the integration of the handicapped in the Commonwealth Games.

Mr. Speaker, what I have just said gives us every reason to deplore the minister's resignation.

S. O. 31

[English]

## FISHERIES

**Mrs. Coline Campbell (South West Nova):** Mr. Speaker, yesterday, the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans again showed his lack of understanding of the fishery. When mentioning the 200-mile limit, he said that the zone was "entrusted" to our use.

According to International Law of the Sea, Canada has complete management rights within the 200-mile exclusive economic zone. Moreover, the agreed rights of foreigners to catch surplus stocks is subject to our control and regulation.

In short, the minister has it all backwards. It is we who entrust our surplus stocks to foreign fishermen, only after we have determined that doing so is not against the interest of the Canadians. Our authority within the 200-mile limit is unquestioned and without limits. It is not entrusted to us.

Has the minister forgotten that we declared the 200-mile limit because it was clear that we could not trust foreigners to care about the long-term sustainable development of our fishery? Maybe he has not forgotten; maybe he was announcing a major change in policy. Maybe the government has decided that it is the foreigners out of the goodness of their hearts who have given us the right to fish within our 200-mile limit.

Actually, this might explain much of what the government has been doing to the Atlantic in recent months. I would ask that the minister give the House more warning in future, when he is planning such major announcements that so affect the east coast. Maybe we could take him on a long walk off a short pier, or take him out to the 12-mile limit and show him that it would be a Canadian boat that would have to rescue him.

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## NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY

**Mr. Felix Holtmann (Portage—Interlake):** Mr. Speaker, last night and this morning I witnessed a total contempt for this Chamber and for the Speaker by the NDP.

Canadians will want to know that the New Democratic members of Parliament have no guts to stand in their place and debate their position. Canadians should know that the New Democrats are making a mockery of the