

S. O. 21

Mr. de Jong: I am proud to announce that the NDP got nothing.

Mr. Nunziata: Because you want to nationalize the banks.

Mr. de Jong: I would add that the NDP would turn them down if they offered money because we believe one cannot accept \$35,000 from the Bank of Montreal without being beholden to it.

Mr. Jepson: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. Will the Hon. Member tell us how much the NDP got from the Canadian Labour Congress?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: That is not a point of order. The Hon. Member for Regina East (Mr. de Jong).

Mr. de Jong: Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member can ask that question in the 10 minutes for questions and comments after my speech. I know that four years is a not long term and it will probably be his only four-year term, but surely he has learned that there are 10 minutes in which he can ask questions after a speech.

The New Democratic Party does not solicit funds from the banks because we believe that one cannot take almost \$200,000 in contributions from the five major banks without being beholden to them. That is why I believe that the Conservatives will not introduce banking legislation. I also believe that the Liberals are very happy about that because they do not want to see their friends restricted.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The period for questions and comments will be held after Question Period.

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.

STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S.O. 21

[*Translation*]

ST. JEAN BAPTISTE FÊTE

CELEBRATION OF FRENCH CULTURE

Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, tomorrow, the people of Québec are celebrating their heritage with various celebrations marking St. John the Baptist Day.

A typically French holiday marked by the lighting of bonfires, the feast of St. John is part and parcel of the

traditions handed down to the French-speaking people of America by their ancestors. For the people of Québec, it is a day of celebration but also an opportunity to reflect upon themselves, to show their pride in speaking French and to think back on their origins.

As the prime source of French language and culture in Canada, Québec represents an essential thread in the great tapestry which our country constitutes. One only has to travel in that province to see how truly different it is from the others. It is the only one where French-speaking Canadians are a majority. Québec also operates under the Civil Code and its culture is unique and definitely distinct.

The vitality of the French fact in Québec and Canada is now unquestionable. Now we must ensure the development of the French language and culture in the other provinces with a view to promoting one of the fundamental characteristics of this country.

I am very proud to join with my fellow citizens from Québec in celebrating their national holiday. May you thoroughly enjoy this day with your family and friends in an atmosphere of fraternity.

* * *

[*English*]

PROVINCIAL AFFAIRS

BRITISH COLUMBIA—LEGISLATION TO ALLOW SALE OF HOSPITALS' ASSETS

Ms. Margaret Mitchell (Vancouver East): Mr. Speaker, Premier Vander Zalm's irresponsible Bill 53, which was introduced yesterday, will allow British Columbia hospitals to sell equipment to the private sector and then lease it back. Under this agreement, cash-starved public institutions which have a tax exempt status will sell expensive equipment purchased with taxpayer dollars to the private sector which then uses it as a tax write-off. The taxpayer pays twice.

The Treasurer of Ontario estimates that institutions receive 10 per cent of the benefit while intermediaries receive 90 per cent. The federal Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson) calls this an inappropriate use of tax dollars. Ottawa and the provinces have agreed unanimously to a moratorium on such sales and lease-backs of assets of hospitals, yet British Columbia ignores this agreement.

This approach to supplementing hospitals' budgets will not address the root cause of under funding of health care. The federal Government has cut \$2 billion from health and education funding. This must be restored, and the Canadian public should know that this kind of B.C. privatization scheme is ripping them off.