

S. O. 21

achievement and proud of this superb athlete and fine representative of Canada.

[*Translation*]

Congratulations, Pierre Harvey, and good luck!

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[*English*]

INDIAN AFFAIRS

VISIT BY SOUTH AFRICAN AMBASSADOR TO PEGUIS RESERVE

Mr. Felix Holtmann (Selkirk—Interlake): Mr. Speaker, today within my constituency of Selkirk—Interlake, South African Ambassador Mr. Glenn Babb will visit the Peguis Indian Reserve to view living conditions there. Canada is a free country and the Chief of the Peguis Reserve has every right to invite Mr. Babb to visit, without a special card.

Canada does not pretend to have dealt adequately with Indian, Inuit, and Métis people. We have held a series of constitutional conferences with native leaders and we will be back at the conference table at the end of this month. Blacks in South Africa have not seen such commitment.

It is to be hoped that the Chief of Peguis will tell Mr. Babb that Indians on reserves are protected by the same fundamental constitutional rights as are all people in Canada, that native people receive free health services, education, housing, and unemployment insurance, have freedom of assembly and mobility, have freedom to work and access to a free press, are exempt from paying income taxes and federal sales tax, and have the right to vote. Why, native people can even take elected representatives to court. Mr. Speaker, Canada does not have any lessons to be learned from the Government of South Africa about the treatment of aboriginal people.

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ROAD SAFETY

USE OF REAR SEAT SHOULDER BELTS IN CARS

Mrs. Thérèse Killens (Saint-Michel—Ahuntsic): Mr. Speaker, my intervention is with regard to the need for Governments to make rear seat shoulder belts mandatory in all cars manufactured in Canada. I have a letter signed by Dr. Blair of the Children's Hospital in Vancouver. It is addressed to the President of GM Canada, the President of Chrysler, the President of American Motors, and the President of Ford Canada. It says:

The CBC, on their program *The Fifth Estate*, recently aired a piece on the horrendous injuries that can occur with lapbelt-only rear seat automobile restraint.

Any of us who have dealt with automobile accident victims can—speak—of the "lap-belt syndrome"—spinal injury, internal abdominal injuries—

I think it is our responsibility, as doctors concerned about preventive medicine, to speak out in favour of mandatory rear seat shoulder restraints in all newly manufactured automobiles.

It behooves us to encourage our government to make rear seat shoulder restraints mandatory on Canadian built cars . . . Most importantly, we must encourage our patients to "buckle up" themselves and their family.

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[*Translation*]

THE MEDIA

INTERPRETATION OF FACTS

Mr. Gabriel Fontaine (Lévis): Mr. Speaker, every day our society receives an ever growing mass of information. Media professionals have a significant and increasing influence on the way citizens think.

One of these days, Mr. Speaker, perhaps we will experience the following hypothetical situation:

The official in charge of communications at the office of the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) advises the media that a unique and extraordinary event will take place in a few days: the Prime Minister of Canada will walk across the water of the Rideau Canal.

On the appointed day the Prime Minister arrives near the canal and, closely watched by cameras, newsmen and hordes of curious people, he crosses the Rideau Canal by simply walking on the water.

A unique event in 2,000 years! Just read the media headlines: "Brian Mulroney can't swim!"

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[*English*]

VIA RAIL

STANDARD OF SERVICE ON WINDSOR-TORONTO ROUTE

Mr. Howard McCurdy (Windsor—Walkerville): Mr. Speaker, Windsorites have more in common with the west than prairie grass, and much more in common with the Atlantic provinces than a gregarious people, that being the unceasing insensitivity and often incompetence of the foci of decision-making in central Canada. Let us consider VIA Rail. VIA Rail, on the route from Windsor to Toronto, has been a study of inconvenience and a source of unremitting complaints almost since its inception.

Along the busiest rail thoroughfare in the country, with a market of thousands of potentially Toronto-bound passengers cultivated by promotion and in love with Canada, no malevolent design could have contrived to discourage travel by VIA Rail as has the management of this corporation. Ride on a GO Train, a train with no heat in winter and no air-conditioning in the summer; buy a ticket and find no room on the train; get on