

S.O. 21

affected by the decision. The decision was made for all of Atlantic Canada last week, and I understand rural Quebec will get the same boot this week. It is now clear that the Government is not interested in the poorer regions of the country, much less in poor people.

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SPORT

NATIONAL SYMBOLISM OF GREY CUP ANNUAL FOOTBALL MATCH

Mr. George Minaker (Winnipeg-St. James): Mr. Speaker, I rise today to make a statement on an annual national event known as the Grey Cup game. I must apologize if I seem somewhat more jubilant today as a Winnipegger than you, Mr. Speaker, as a Torontonion. On last Sunday afternoon our Winnipeg Blue Bombers became the number one football team in western Canada, and the Western Conference champions. The Blue Bombers are a community-owned team with its home located in the centre of the riding of Winnipeg-St. James.

I should like to take this opportunity to congratulate formally the players—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I am afraid that gives me an opportunity I must take. I wish only to say to new Members, and others, that according to the rules of the House Standing Order 21 may not be used for statements of congratulations. I rise only to make that point.

Mr. Minaker: The Grey Cup is a real symbol of national pride and unity. It brings the East and West together in a weekend full of festivities and good will.

I might add that my deskmate, the Hon. Member for Lincoln (Mrs. Martin), which is in Hamilton, and I, have a friendly wager that the loser will buy a dinner in the Parliamentary Restaurant regardless of whether or not the price has risen. I hope, without breaking any laws, that my colleagues from western Canada will join in similar wagers with our eastern colleagues so that we can get back some of the loot we in western Canada lost last year to the East.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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MULTICULTURALISM

SEPARATE DEPARTMENT ADVOCATED

Mr. Ernie Epp (Thunder Bay-Nipigon): Mr. Speaker, I rise today to draw the attention of the House to a commitment made by the Conservative Party during the last election campaign, a commitment which is now by no means certain to be honoured.

Ethnic leaders throughout Canada have been asking the federal Government for many years to strengthen its commitment to Canada's multicultural heritage. Since the first statement by then Prime Minister Trudeau in 1971 referring to Canada's multicultural diversity, there has been growing recognition of the multicultural fact.

During the election campaign the Hon. Member for Edmonton North (Mr. Paposki) confirmed that his Party would, if it formed the Government, create a separate Department of Multiculturalism with an "ethnic minister". When asked if his Leader, now the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney), would support such a move, the Hon. member and former Minister of State for Multiculturalism during the previous minority Conservative Government, was quoted as saying:

I think that I can say that without any problem.

It appears now that there is some problem. The Speech from the Throne which opened this new Parliament made only one fleeting and thin reference to the Government's commitment:

To reach a national consensus which will reflect the reality of Canada's cultural diversity.

There is no mention of the campaign promise of a full-fledged Department of Multiculturalism.

The Minister of State for Multiculturalism (Mr. Murta) is reportedly engaged in consultations with ethnic groups to consider the direction of Canada's multicultural policy. I hope these consultations create a better result than the previous Government's multiculturalism Bill of last June. Let the Government show its good will by honouring at least one campaign promise, one that holds an enormous symbolic importance for thousands of Canadians.

Mr. Speaker: I regret to inform the Hon. Member that his time has expired.

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THE ECONOMY

SUPPORT FOR GOVERNMENT'S AIMS

Mr. Bill Attewell (Don Valley East): Mr. Speaker, as the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson) said in his statement last Thursday, the Canadian people did indeed make a clear and confident judgment on September 4 about the future of this great country of ours. I strongly endorse and applaud the objectives and strategies of the program. The process of consultation with Canadians is especially vital if we are to achieve the desired consensus, followed by committed action.

I wish to stress that the creation of jobs remains the top priority in Canada. However, we must take the required long-term steps to create a climate of confidence so that sustained economic growth and job creation will take place. In creating such a climate it is essential to tackle the causes of the problems rather than wrestling with the symptoms. That is why Canadians agree that we must reverse the massive buildup in public debt as a step toward fiscal responsibility.