

S. O. 31

citizenship court ceremony demonstrating the vital link between immigration and citizenship which his new department symbolizes.

On behalf of all Canadians I pay tribute to the dedicated employees who serve today and to the pioneers of yesterday who helped build our nation through immigration starting 125 years ago today.

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BATTLE OF NORMANDY

Mr. Ivan Grose (Oshawa): Mr. Speaker, this is from one generation to another. Fifty years ago a battle of unimaginable ferocity was fought on the beaches of Normandy, a battle that will be talked about for a thousand years to come, one which will be known as the bravest day.

We live in freedom and prosperity today as a generation of ordinary Canadians who have never known the anguish of war and separation wish to say something to that generation who were there. We wish to say that we remember. We wish to thank them for their courage, their sacrifice and their deed.

This message of gratitude comes from ordinary people who have realized that to let this occasion pass without a salute to them would be a sad oversight which would surely bewilder generations to come. Whatever battles are left to be fought, let us all hope that the greatest one is now behind us.

This was written by Gary Hesketh to his father, a veteran and my friend, Red Hesketh, and inserted as a full page ad in the *Toronto Star* on June 6, 1994.

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THE GOLDEN TEMPLE

Ms. Colleen Beaumier (Brampton): Mr. Speaker, this month Sikhs around the world are commemorating the 10th anniversary of the tragic army assault against their holiest shrine, the Golden Temple.

In 1984 the Golden Temple and 37 other historic and religious places were destroyed by aggressive army assaults. The Sikh nation calls those who were killed martyrs, and on the 10th anniversary of this tragedy I call upon all members of the House to pay homage to thousands of innocent people, including women, children and seniors killed during these attacks.

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[Translation]

AGRICULTURE

Mr. Jean-Paul Marchand (Québec-Est): Mr. Speaker, contrary to what Ottawa claims, our agricultural policies are not in

disarray because of international commitments. The federal government is to blame.

• (1405)

The Liberal government reduced farm subsidies to meet GATT requirements, when we had already met our commitments. The same government is giving in to demands from the Americans with respect to foreign trade.

We must stimulate the agricultural sector and do so through carefully considered action. Changes in the Crow rate should reflect equal treatment of eastern and western producers. The Liberal government should declare a one-year moratorium on sales of the BST hormone, and any concessions made on the international scene should be met with benefits for Canadian producers. That is how a responsible government should prepare for agriculture 2000.

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[English]

TIME ALLOCATION

Mr. Bob Ringma (Nanaimo—Cowichan): Mr. Speaker, I want to begin with a quote: "Government must be judged by its effectiveness in promoting human dignity, justice, fairness and opportunity".

Nice words but I am afraid their meaning is hollow. Those words come from the Prime Minister in the fabled red book. Unfortunately last night the government showed that the words were only rhetoric. By invoking closure on several key pieces of legislation the government showed its true colours.

How does closing off debate serve the purpose of justice, fairness or opportunity? If anyone in Canada had any remaining doubts about the role of the Bloc Québécois as the Official Opposition, those doubts went out the window last evening.

Did the Official Opposition stand up for freedom and for all Canadians? It did not. Now all Canadians can see the Bloc Québécois Party for what it truly is. Both the government and the Bloc Québécois can share in last night's shame.

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MILITARY BANDS

Mr. Bill Blaikie (Winnipeg Transcona): Mr. Speaker, I rise today to protest a recent decision by the Department of National Defence concerning the status of pipers in the bands of the 15 highland regiments of the Canadian militia.

The removal of pipers from the militia role and the likely damage caused by this to many fine bands like that of the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders in Winnipeg or the Black Watch in Montreal is a sad and infuriating attack on a good tradition and on the morale of these regiments and their supporters.