

*S.O. 22*

during which this country made a tremendous impression on the 1,000 delegates from more than 90 countries who accepted our invitation. I am sure that the friendliness and helpfulness of the entire conference staff will be long remembered by the delegates.

The fact that, generally, bilingualism was the order of the day was considered quite remarkable by all, and in fact it was an advantage in this case, because the Union's two official languages are French and English.

Finally, a special word of thanks to the security services, and I am thinking of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, which understood its role, perfectly that is to provide full and complete security for all—

**Mr. Speaker:** I am sorry to interrupt the Hon. Member, but his time has expired.

The Hon. Member for Thunder Bay-Nipigon (Mr. Epp).

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[English]

### MULTICULTURALISM

APPOINTMENT OF HON. LINCOLN ALEXANDER AS  
LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR OF ONTARIO

**Mr. Ernie Epp (Thunder Bay-Nipigon):** Mr. Speaker, another milestone in the multicultural history of Canada has been achieved this month. The appointment of Mr. Lincoln Alexander as the next Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario is an event of historic significance.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Epp (Thunder Bay-Nipigon):** It is also of great symbolic importance in Canada's relations with the Third World. The appointment of a black Canadian represents a vital recognition of the ethnocultural diversity of our country. His rise from humble beginnings to service as the Queen's representative in the Province of Ontario crowns a long career of public service and indicates the opportunities that one able member of Canada's visible minorities could find in this country.

The Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) deserves commendation for an appointment which is sure to be more than symbolic. At a time of increasing recognition of the need to deal forthrightly with racism in our communities, Lieutenant-Governor Alexander will undoubtedly encourage all Ontarians to develop the sensitivities needed in this area and government to take the actions that appear necessary at the provincial level.

The Government of Canada also needs to take firm action in many areas of federal responsibility and I urge the Prime Minister and his colleagues to meet the challenge. The appointment of Mr. Alexander renews hope for such action in the minds of thousands of our citizens.

### HOUSE OF COMMONS

PRESENCE OF PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION FROM  
YUGOSLAVIA

**Mr. Speaker:** May I indicate the presence in our gallery today of a parliamentary delegation from Yugoslavia. Their leader is Mr. Iso Njegovan. They are entirely welcome.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

### ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

#### THE ECONOMY

STATEMENT BY PRIME MINISTER—REQUEST FOR WITHDRAWAL

**Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister. Particularly in recent days, the bumbling incompetence of the Government and the Ministers of the Government is eroding confidence in our country and certainly in its financial stability. The climate of confidence was not helped by the Prime Minister's statement on Friday that Canada is broke, that Canada is bankrupt. Nothing is better calculated to destroy confidence, both at home and abroad, than for the Prime Minister to make such an irresponsible and indeed false statement.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra):** Will the Prime Minister withdraw that statement in the House of Commons and attempt to repair some of the damage he has done to the financial stability of the country?

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I would first like to welcome the Leader of the Opposition and all Members of the House of Commons back after the summer recess and wish them all well.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Mulroney:** I extend a special welcome to the Yugoslavs who are here today. I can assure them that Canadian Yugoslavs are making a tremendous contribution to the growth of our country.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Mulroney:** The Irish—so, so.

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Mulroney:** Mr. Speaker, the reference that I made on Friday was really to draw attention to the rather excellent state of affairs that Canada enjoyed when my right hon. friend was Minister of Finance as compared with the dramatic historic deterioration over the subsequent 12 years. Where I