

## STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S.O. 21

[Translation]

### ENERGY

#### INDUSTRIAL SABOTAGE AT JAMES BAY—QUEBEC PREMIER'S INTERVENTION—ALLEGED THEFT OF PUBLIC FUNDS

**Mr. Gaston Gourde (Lévis):** Madam Speaker, we are being told that Premier René Lévesque has allegedly pinched \$31 million from Quebecers. He was the one who ordered spokesmen for the Société d'énergie de la baie James to settle for \$200,000 a \$31 million claim resulting from the March 21, 1974 wrecking at James Bay. The Premier intervened in the normal proceedings of a legal suit launched under the Bourassa Government. What is utterly ridiculous is the fact that, through such a settlement, the Premier made the SEJB lose \$600,000 because, even if it did get \$200,000, the SEJB had already spent \$800,000 in legal fees. Premier Lévesque thus intervened personally to give \$31 million to the QFL without any authority from the National Assembly or Cabinet. In my opinion, that was tantamount to looting the public coffers. Quebec hydro consumers must pay for secret agreements based on mere political partisanship. Either Mr. René Lévesque is not telling the truth or he is acting like an idiot when he claims that no one on his staff took part in the negotiations even though 12 meetings were held in their offices. I think that Premier Lévesque owes Quebecers an explanation about this.

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[English]

### HORTICULTURE

#### A GIFT OF DAFFODILS—PLEA FOR PROTECTION AGAINST SUBSIDIZED IMPORTS

**Mr. Donald W. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich):** Madam Speaker, today, March the 21, is the first day of spring, believe it or not, with snow and freezing rain covering the Ottawa area. However, the daffodils from my riding of Esquimalt-Saanich, which I am pleased to make available in the lobbies to all Hon. Members, are not just reminders of spring. Through these daffodils I hope to catch the attention of the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Whelan) and some of his colleagues, as I have done regularly in the past, and to plead that they provide greater protection to Canada's horticultural industry.

Canada's producers of horticultural products can meet their competition from offshore, provided that that competition is not heavily subsidized. Canada's horticulturalists are not seeking subsidies. All they ask is protection against overly subsidized produce from offshore, and relief from burdensome taxation.

Fruit and vegetable producers are already given some protection against subsidized imports. Canadian flower producers deserve similar protection through seasonal and regional tariffs applicable when Canadian products are at their

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peak. They also deserve protection against imports from countries where unusual market practices prevail. "Dumping" needs redefinition. Finally, they deserve relief from onerous federal tax levies on fuels used for heating greenhouses. Such taxes might be written off as legitimate business expenses. The Minister of Agriculture should therefore work out—

**Madam Speaker:** Order.

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### REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

#### DELAY IN IMPLEMENTING NEW BRUNSWICK PROJECTS

**Hon. J. Robert Howie (York-Sunbury):** Madam Speaker, despite Government announcements that the facilities necessary for the efficient performance of federal Departments will be built in New Brunswick, there are no major federal capital works projects under way this winter or this spring.

Announcements have been made concerning a lead-zinc smelter at Belledune, the transfer of a federal pay directorate to Chatham, a federal maximum security prison at Renous, a military training centre complex at Canadian Forces Base Gagetown, a divisional headquarters of the RCMP at Fredericton, and the Government is holding up construction of the maritime forestry complex at the University of New Brunswick.

The federal Government has allowed subsidiary agreements under the general development agreement between New Brunswick and Canada to lapse. A tourism agreement, highway agreement and industrial agreement are among those which have lapsed. Route 11 along the north shore of New Brunswick is a major developmental highway that should be completed.

With severely high unemployment, the Government should exercise the political will to move these projects forward out of the various planning stages, and create some badly needed jobs and badly needed facilities now.

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### INDIAN AFFAIRS

#### FLOODING ON PEGUIS RESERVE IN MANITOBA

**Mr. Terry Sargeant (Selkirk-Interlake):** Madam Speaker, time after time band members from the Peguis Indian Reserve of Manitoba have tried to get the Department of Indian Affairs to do something to rectify the reserve's perennial flooding problem. Only last July the Minister wrote to me and said that as soon as he had received a report from the Band about the Fisher River flooding, his office would promptly advise the Peguis Band about what would be done to get Treasury Board approval for a flood rectification project.

There have now been five studies of this flooding, but still nothing has been done to prevent it in the future. So the band