

Oral Questions

Lemieux. Unfortunately, this community is located on the banks of the South Nation River. Its banks are made of lead clay and are subject to landslides. There have been three such landslides in 1895, 1910, and 1971.

The last landslide engulfed 70 acres of land adjacent to the village. Studies have now determined that the whole village could slide into the river. The village must be moved to another site. This will result in tremendous disruption for the people of my riding. People need financial assistance to do this. I know that the Province of Ontario is working actively to help those people.

I now call upon Environment Canada or any other arm of the federal Government to provide assistance to the people of Lemieux in the riding of Glengarry—Prescott—Russell. Let us not wait for another St.-Jean-Vianney before we act.

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MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

TRIBUTE TO RETIRING MEMBERS

Mr. David Daubney (Ottawa West): Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to those of my colleagues who will not be standing for re-election in the upcoming election.

The Hon. President of the Treasury Board (Miss Carney), the Hon. Members for Victoria (Mr. McKinnon), Okanagan North (Mr. Dantzer), Cariboo—Chilcotin (Mr. Greenaway), Prince George—Bulkley Valley (Mr. McCuish), Wetaskiwin (Mr. Schellenberger), Red Deer (Mr. Towers), Calgary North (Mr. Gagnon), Bow River (Mr. Taylor), Qu'Appelle—Moose Mountain (Mr. Hamilton), Lisgar (Mr. Murta), Winnipeg—Assiniboine (Mr. McKenzie), St. Catharines (Mr. Reid), Stormont—Dundas (Mr. Warner), Northumberland (Mr. Hees), Durham—Northumberland (Mr. Lawrence), Simcoe South (Mr. Stewart), Elgin (Mr. Wise), Bruce—Grey (Mr. Gurbin), Cambridge (Mr. Speyer), Prince Edward—Hastings (Mr. Ellis), Ontario (Mr. Fennell), Joliette (Mr. LaSalle), Saint-Jean (Mr. Bissonnette), Langelier (Mr. Côté), Labelle (Mr. Ladouceur), Montmorency—Orléans (Miss Blouin), York—Sunbury (Mr. Howie), Carleton—Charlotte (Mr. McCain), Malpeque (Mr. Gass), Cumberland—Colchester (Mr. Coates), South Shore (Mr. Crouse), New Westminster—Coquitlam (Ms. Jewett), Cowichan—Malahat—The Islands (Mr. Manly), Sudbury (Mr. Frith), Saint-Michel—Ahuntsic (Ms. Killens), and Saint-Maurice (Mr. Grondin), have all indicated that they will not be seeking re-election.

I wish I had time to pay tribute individually to each of these men and women. However, may I mention five Hon. Members whose lengthy and honourable service merits special acknowledgement. They are the Hon. Member for Durham—Northumberland who completes 30 years in the Ontario and federal Legislatures; the three retiring members of the class of '57, the Hon. Member for Qu'Appelle—Moose Mountain, the Hon.

Member for Cumberland Colchester, and the Hon. Member for South Shore; and the Hon. Member for Bow River who completes a combined total of 48 years in the Alberta and Canadian Parliaments.

I have been privileged to serve here with these Hon. Members. While they will not be returning to the House, their contributions to Parliament and to the country will not be forgotten.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

APARTHEID

SOUTH AFRICA—PRIME MINISTER'S SPEECH TO UNITED NATIONS

Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, we seem to be a little thin here this morning. I say, on behalf of the Member for Oshawa, that we mean on the government side.

My question is directed to the Acting Prime Minister. Last night I was in Winnipeg and I have to say that the people of Winnipeg were not at all surprised that the Prime Minister made an announcement about Winnipeg from New York City. That was very much appreciated.

During his only other speech to the United Nations on October 23, 1985, the Prime Minister had the following to say to the Assembly: "... if there are no fundamental changes in South Africa, we are prepared to invoke total sanctions against that country and its repressive regime. If there is no progress in the dismantling of apartheid, our relations with South Africa may have to be severed absolutely".

When the Prime Minister made that statement to the United Nations three years ago he received world-wide praise. However, the blunt fact is that the Prime Minister broke his word. He has not invoked total sanctions against South Africa. He has not severed diplomatic relations.

Why did the Prime Minister break his word to Canadians and to the world?

Hon. Flora MacDonald (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, as a Canadian I was very proud of the address delivered by our Prime Minister to the United Nations yesterday.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Miss MacDonald: I would like to quote the Prime Minister's words when he said: "Consistent with our policy of moving systematically and deliberately to increase pressure on South Africa our Government announced earlier this week specific new measures to tighten the ban on government contracts with South African companies, and a further ban on high technology".