

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Wednesday, June 17, 1992

The House met at 2 p.m.

Prayers

STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S. O. 31

[*English*]

WOODLOTS

Mr. Bill Vankoughnet (Hastings—Frontenac—Lennox and Addington): Mr. Speaker, proposals by the Ontario government would give counties and regions authority over woodlots greater than 2.5 acres and other municipalities the power to control individual shade trees, windbreaks and fence rows.

These proposed changes could have a serious impact on private landowners' rights and should be of concern to anyone who has a tree growing on his or her property.

Ontario is pushing responsibility on to municipalities while at the same time allowing clear cutting on its own Crown lands. My constituents are tired of too much government and this proposed legislation promises to be a nightmare of permits, regulation, and enforcement; all to the detriment of the taxpayer.

Canadians love the privileges that come with freedom, peace, private property and the pursuit of the work ethic.

At this sensitive time in our country's history, I urge members of Parliament to work to find ways to support and encourage law abiding, environmentally conscious private citizens rather than targeting them with restrictive and expensive laws which have not worked in eastern Europe or elsewhere.

[*Translation*]

MULTICULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS

Mrs. Shirley Maheu (Saint-Laurent—Cartierville): Mr. Speaker, once again the Conservative government is interfering with multicultural organizations instead of co-operating with them.

[*English*]

The minister is trying to undermine the World Sikh Organization by funding to the tune of \$130,000 the National Alliance of Canadian Sikhs.

The World Sikh Organization has represented Sikhs without any grants or subsidies from the government, yet the minister has the nerve to proclaim the alliance as the principal organization representing Sikhs.

It is time the government stopped interfering in the internal matters of ethnocultural communities and the Sikh community specifically. The role of multiculturalism and citizenship should be the building of bridges and not barriers.

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[*Translation*]

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Jean-Pierre Hogue (Outremont): Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to draw your attention to a measure taken by our government to support Montreal's economic development over the next few years. I do so on behalf of the members of the Montreal caucus I have the honour to chair.

Monday, the Minister of National Health and Welfare, who is responsible for the Federal Office of Regional Development, announced that \$150 million would be allocated by the government to support projects in sectors that would afford the best prospects for Montreal.

This initiative by our government is well suited to the partnership that exists today between government and