

Minister (Mr. Mulroney) added to this event by presenting a cheque for \$1 million to Rick's fund.

Our young hero has learned not only to cope with disabilities but to excel in spite of them. Now two-thirds of the way through his Man in Motion tour, Rick will salute the people of the Ottawa region and continue his 40,000 kilometre trek around the world. It is now our turn as Members of Parliament to salute this young man and remind ourselves and our constituents to give, give, give to the cause of spinal cord research and rehabilitation. Good luck, Rick Hansen, and may God be with you.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE

MEMBERSHIP OF STANDING COMMITTEE ON ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS AND NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Keith Penner (Cochrane—Superior): Mr. Speaker, when this House recently agreed to a package of parliamentary reforms it was, in part, to give standing committees more freedom and independence from the Government. That being so, you will understand my astonishment when late last week the Chief Government Whip showed up at the organization meeting of the Standing Committee on Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development to impose upon it, as Chairman, a new MP who has never before served on this committee. The ranking Conservative member, a man of experience and empathy with Canada's indigenous peoples, was passed over. What goes on? Simply, Sir, the Government has decided to cool down native issues, to dampen expectations raised by the previous Minister responsible.

In my nearly two decades as a Member of this House I have never felt quite so discouraged and despondent about the possibility of progress being made toward the recognition and implementation of aboriginal rights in Canada.

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POLLOMANIA

FREQUENCY OF POLLS CONDEMNED

Mr. Barry Turner (Ottawa—Carleton): Mr. Speaker, have you ever been called in a poll? I have not, no one in my family has, and neither have my neighbours. There are real polls, anonymous polls, private polls, and public polls. They do polls to ask people what they thought of recent polls. They ask questions about your age, sex, and serial number, about what you ate for breakfast, lunch or dinner, about what you watch on TV, listen to on the radio or read in the newspapers. They ask if you are happy with the Government and its Leader, as well as with the performance of the Opposition and its

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Leaders. Before this month is out there will be a poll to see if MPs are pleased with your performance.

Canadians are polled out by poll junkies. They are too frequent and too futile. Leave us alone and let the Government get on with the job of running the country.

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DISARMAMENT

CALL FOR AGREEMENT BETWEEN SUPERPOWERS

Hon. Warren Allmand (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce—Lachine East): Mr. Speaker, last Friday in New York the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) told the President of the United States that he was right in not abandoning star wars for an arms control agreement. This is typical of the Prime Minister's double-talk on this issue. Several months ago he said his Government was opposed to star wars but now he says it is all right for the United States to continue.

● (1415)

This is Disarmament Week. There are now approximately 50,000 nuclear weapons in the world, 30,000 with the United States and NATO and 20,000 with the Soviet Union and the Warsaw Pact, which are one million times more powerful than the bombs which fell on Hiroshima, and represent 4 tonnes of TNT for every person in the world. Will the Prime Minister use the occasion of Disarmament Week to reconsider his position on nuclear disarmament and star wars and press for a superpower agreement to control and reduce all nuclear weapons, including star wars?

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POLITICAL PARTIES

HOMOSEXUAL AND LESBIAN POLICE RECRUITS—POSITION OF NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY

Mr. Svend J. Robinson (Burnaby): Mr. Speaker, I call upon all Members of the House to join with me and my colleagues in condemning the offensive and degrading references which were made by the Hon. Member for Bow River (Mr. Taylor) to homosexuals who seek to work within the RCMP. The offensive and degrading stereotypes—

Mr. Speaker: Order. I think all Hon. Members would agree that the Chair's intervention in that particular statement was sufficient. It was made in the interest of not having an exchange of comments which might lead to some disorder in the Chamber. I would ask the Hon. Member, having made his point, to leave it there.