

*S. O. 21***THE CONSTITUTION****MEECH LAKE ACCORD—EFFECT ON NORTHERNERS—CALL FOR INFORMED DEBATE**

Mr. Thomas Suluk (Nunatsiak): Mr. Speaker, I spent the last two weeks in my riding and was concerned to hear many negative comments from northerners regarding the Meech Lake Accord. Not only is the former Leader of the territorial Government contesting the Accord in court, but many Members of the Legislative Assembly are telling northerners they are second-class citizens. I, for one, Mr. Speaker, do not believe that anyone in this country has the right to tell a group of people they are second-class citizens.

As well, it is being promoted on the public airwaves that the Accord enables the provinces to extend their boundaries into the Territories. The only discussion of this nature of which I am aware involves the Inuit of northern Quebec and their cousins in the Territories with regard to the islands off the coast of Hudson Bay which are presently within territorial jurisdiction.

I think it is time that informed debate and intelligent facts be presented to northerners to replace the fear and resentment that are now being promoted.

* * *

INDIAN AFFAIRS**POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION—LEVEL OF GOVERNMENT FUNDING**

Mr. Keith Penner (Cochrane—Superior): Mr. Speaker, I and the members of my Party continue to be perplexed and dismayed by the Government's cutbacks to Indian post-secondary education. We are fundamentally opposed to the recent changes which have been made by the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (Mr. McKnight) to the Indian post-secondary education assistance program.

These changes are denying Indian students access to post-secondary institutions. Hundreds of Indian students who have been accepted into these institutions are having the doors shut on them because of the Minister's lack of support.

How can the Minister, on the one hand, advocate Indian self-government and economic self-sufficiency and, on the other hand, put a cap on the number of Indian students who may receive post-secondary education assistance? Does the Minister not see the inconsistency here? He should be aware that many Canadians students and educators, Indians and non-Indians, do see the inconsistency. If he does not revoke these regressive measures himself, a new Liberal Government will certainly do so.

TRADE**CANADA-UNITED STATES TRADE AGREEMENT—SUPPORT EXPRESSED BY CANADIAN CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION**

Mr. William G. Lesick (Edmonton East): Mr. Speaker, there is an illusion, a dangerous illusion, that those who favour free trade are somehow less Canadian than those who oppose it. We are seen as prepared to sacrifice our culture and our sovereignty to the interests of material gain. We are even portrayed—as disposed to political union, all because we state that we are prepared to trade and compete openly with our neighbours. This is ironic, for the survival of Canada, as a sovereign and cultural country, depends greatly upon our prosperity. The weak are more readily absorbed than the strong, the timid more easily than the confident.

These words were spoken by representatives of the Canadian Cattlemen's Association on behalf of more than 100,000 members at this morning's meeting of the Committee on External Affairs and International Trade. I believe they are worthy of the consideration of all Members of Parliament.

Alberta cattlemen, who produce 40 per cent of Canadian beef cattle, support their colleagues from coast to coast and are in favour of free trade with the United States. Their history is Canada's history and what is good for cattlemen is good for Canada.

* * *

TAX REFORM**DEFERRED TAXES OWED BY CORPORATIONS**

Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North): Mr. Speaker, for years NDP Members of Parliament have argued that our tax system makes poor and middle-income Canadians pay too much and less wealthy individuals and large corporations pay too little, indeed, often no taxes at all.

Now the Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs of this House, which is comprised of a majority of Conservatives, has confirmed the truth of our analysis. It calls for taxing the banks and large corporations more and closing the loopholes in our tax laws which have permitted them legally to avoid paying their fair share of taxes.

One of the favourite methods used by these corporations is the provision for deferred corporation taxes. Some corporations will never pay these taxes. Consolidated Bathurst, MacMillan Bloedel, Stelco, Bell Canada and Imperial Oil have availed themselves of this right. There is now more than \$30 billion owing to the Government in deferred taxes.

I suggest that the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson) change the law so that the companies which benefit from these interest-free loans be required to pay interest on loans.