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which is unfortunate, because my constituents and I have known for some time that the Niagara Peninsula contains some of the world's finest wine producing land.

Last July when the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) visited the area he assured the farmers that, just as in previous Conservative administrations, their concerns would not be forgotten and the surplus would be taken up. Therefore, I was extremely pleased when this past week the Department of Agriculture began mailing cheques to our grape producers, covering 100 per cent of the surplus at 100 per cent of the cost—again demonstrating this Government's commitment to the agricultural community. Therefore, four years from now, farmers, along with other Canadians, are going to be able to say: "There were promises made, but more important, those promises were kept".

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THE HON. STANLEY KNOWLES

DISTINGUISHED PARLIAMENTARY SERVICE

Mr. Cyril Keeper (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, tomorrow is the forty-second anniversary of the first election to the House of Commons of the Hon. Stanley Knowles.

Mr. Knowles served in this Chamber as the Hon. Member for Winnipeg North Centre for almost 38 years. Every time we hear the words "Winnipeg North Centre", we are reminded of Stanley's unrivalled contribution toward ordinary Canadians.

His contribution is being recognized in Toronto tomorrow, which is why he cannot be here with us. So, I want to acknowledge his presence and his distinguished service, today. His mastery of parliamentary procedure enabled him to work effectively for ordinary Canadians, prodding and demanding action from successive Governments, for the elderly, the ill, and the unemployed. All Canadians can feel more secure and less fearful in their retirement years as a result of the work of the former Hon. Member for Winnipeg North Centre.

Stanley, we salute you.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Whereupon the Members rose in tribute.

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[Translation]

EMPLOYMENT

MANNER IN WHICH SERVICES OFFERED BY EMPLOYMENT CENTRES

Mrs. Suzanne Duplessis (Louis-Hébert): Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate you on your appointment and also take advantage of this opportunity to congratulate the Members of this House, especially the women who were elected on September 4.

I want to draw the attention of the House to a situation that is prevalent in Canada Employment Centres. The way public servants who dispense the services of this Department deal with clients is absolutely appalling. I often hear about such things from my constituents, and from conversations I have had with my hon. colleagues, I understand the same is true elsewhere. It is bad enough to be unemployed, but being treated without respect is even worse. For instance, it is impossible to get through to an Employment Centre officer by phone, since the lines are always busy. People have to deal with several officers who fail to provide for follow-up. On top of that there is a lot of waiting in line, and once they get to the counter, people are often told to see another officer. The impression is that courtesy is definitely expendable. I therefore think it is absolutely essential the Minister of Employment and Immigration (Miss MacDonald) be made aware of the way services are offered in Employment Centres, so that the Minister will be able to act without delay to humanize the process in all offices across Canada.

I would like to remind Hon. Members that Parliament and the Administration are supposed to serve the people of this country and not the other way around. This is something that was forgotten by the previous Government.

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IMMIGRATION

GOVERNMENT POLICY REVISION

Mrs. Lucie Pépin (Outremont): Mr. Speaker, when the Minister of Employment and Immigration appeared before the Standing Committee on Labour, Manpower and Immigration this week, I was given the assurance that any changes in immigration policy would be made in a spirit that would respect our humanitarian tradition.

To prove this guarantee was genuine, the Minister of Employment and Immigration pointed out past commitments, including the program for sponsoring refugees from Indo-China, started in 1979 when she headed the Department of External Affairs. The program was organized as follows: the Government would sponsor one refugee for each refugee sponsored by a private group. This program is not a very convincing example, because the Minister will recall that five months after the program was introduced, it was terminated by the Progressive Conservative Government which preferred to let the United Nations provide assistance to Cambodia. This decision put private sponsors in a difficult situation, since they then had to take charge of the refugees the Government had promised to sponsor. Therefore, although I certainly do not for a moment doubt the Minister's good faith, I will take her promises with a grain of salt, and I remain convinced that some drastic changes are in the offing with respect to our immigration policy.