

S. O. 21

miserably by not having the courage to come through with a solution. He has rejected any form of price supports—"the free market must prevail at all costs."

He has failed to create any form of marketing boards or use existing infrastructures to help this ailing fishery and, finally, he has refused to move quickly on the industry's call for a reduction in the capelin quota to more appropriate levels.

No wonder Newfoundlanders call this a 100 per cent failure.

* * *

THE CONSTITUTION

1987 CONSTITUTIONAL ACCORD—ABORIGINAL AND MULTICULTURAL DIMENSIONS OF COUNTRY

Mr. Sergio Marchi (York West): Mr. Speaker, Canadians whose origins are other than French or English have serious concerns over their status within the present constitutional Accord.

When I raised this issue on Tuesday with the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney), rather than dealing with the issue with the sensitivity and seriousness that the matter deserves, he preferred, instead, to suggest, very falsely, that I was at odds with my Leader and with my Party by raising these concerns.

It should be made very clear to the Prime Minister that at our policy conference last November, unlike the present Accord, in the preamble of our constitutional resolution, a resolution that was adopted very enthusiastically, we suggested that Canada is defined by its French, English, aboriginal, and multicultural dimensions.

Furthermore, on May 11, my Leader in the House of Commons, three times in the body of his speech, repeated the concerns about the lack of any "multicultural" reference in the Accord. Moreover, in his national address on CBC to the country, he voiced regret that the Premiers and the Prime Minister did not go further and recognize, fundamentally, the contributions and aspirations of our indigenous and multicultural community in Canada.

The Prime Minister has not given good reasons for rejecting, in Clause 1, the addition of a very integral part of Canadian society.

* * *

CORPORATE AFFAIRS

HIGH INTEREST RATES CHARGED BY DEPARTMENT STORES

Mr. Reginald Stackhouse (Scarborough West): Mr. Speaker, almost two months ago a parliamentary committee recommended that the major department stores reduce their charge card rates to the level of the bank-issued credit cards. Almost two months later, with the banks having lowered their

rates significantly, store chains like The Bay, Canadian Tire, Eatons, Sears, Simpson's and Woolco are still charging 28.8 per cent on outstanding balances.

● (1415)

I ask those companies the following questions. Are they saying "the Parliament of Canada be damned"? What do we need? What are they waiting for? Do we have to take a legislative club and beat them over their corporate heads?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

* * *

THE HONOURABLE STANLEY KNOWLES

CELEBRATION OF SEVENTY-NINTH BIRTHDAY

Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise this afternoon to mark an important occasion. Today, a very special former parliamentarian is celebrating his seventy-ninth birthday. I refer of course to the Hon. Stanley Knowles.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

[Translation]

Mr. Broadbent: Mr. Speaker, Stanley Knowles likes to tell the story of how goat's milk saved his life when he was a child. He grew up to be a man whose kindness and strength of character are legendary, and we hope to celebrate many more anniversaries with him.

[English]

When Stanley was 21 years old, his father wrote to him and said the following in his letter:

I note how your soul is burning with the vision and zeal of youth to carry the message of good news to the peoples of the earth that will make this earth more heavenly and certainly a better place to live in.

Well, Stanley followed that up.

[Translation]

The wisdom that comes with age has in no way diminished Stanley's vision of a fairer and more compassionate world. He has worked very hard to realize this vision for Canadian men and women. Ever since he was elected Member for the riding of Winnipeg North Centre in 1942, he has led the fight to improve living conditions for the poor and the needy. And he keeps reminding us that the fight is not over yet.

[English]

Over 60 years ago when Stanley first visited Ottawa in 1924, the Peace Tower had not yet been completed. Today, the image of Stanley personifies Parliament as indelibly as the Peace Tower for Canadians from coast to coast.

I should like to ask all Members of the House to join with me in wishing Stanley a most happy birthday.