

S. O. 21

[Translation]

REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

INITIATIVE TAKEN BY METROPOLITAN QUÉBEC CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

Mr. Marcel R. Tremblay (Québec-Est): Mr. Speaker, among the constant, fundamental challenges that Canada must meet, one of the most urgent and complex is regional economic development. This challenge can only be met with a new synergistic relationship between all levels of government and the private sector.

In this regard, I would like to point out the important initiative that the *Chambre de commerce et d'industrie du Québec métropolitain* just took by setting up a venture capital corporation to support entrepreneurship and underwriting \$50,000 to \$500,000 of shares for the initial stage of business development.

Since our Government has just concluded agreements worth several hundreds of millions of dollars to stimulate regional economic development, we must be glad about the recent initiative of the *Chambre de commerce et d'industrie du Québec métropolitain* and hope that it spreads to other regions.

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● (1410)

OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

PROTECTION OF RIGHTS OF QUÉBECERS AND FRANCOPHONES
OUTSIDE QUÉBEC

Mr. Jean-Claude Malépart (Montreal—Sainte-Marie): Mr. Speaker, since Thursday, Canada and especially the House of Commons and the Conservative Government is experiencing a language crisis. We all know that the Secretary of State (Mr. Bouchard) is the Minister responsible for Official Languages. The House will recall that the new Secretary of State, the Hon. Member for Lac-Saint-Jean, said during his election campaign that he was going to Ottawa to defend the interests of Quebecers and Francophones. We all remember that. We saw it on television when this gentleman was sworn in as a Member of this House. On that occasion he again stated that his priority would be to defend Francophones.

However, Quebecers now wonder where the defender of Quebecers and Francophones is now, when the Tories are experiencing a crisis. Where is the Secretary of State? Where is the Hon. Member for Lac-Saint-Jean? Where is the man who was supposed to defend the interests of Quebecers and Francophones? We got shafted on the research contracts and we are now being shafted on official languages. Where is he, that reknowned defender of Canada's Francophones?

[English]

MULTICULTURALISM

FESTIVAL 88—UKRAINIAN CULTURE CELEBRATION

Mr. William G. Lesick (Edmonton East): Mr. Speaker, Festival 88 which was held in Edmonton and Vegreville, Alberta, from June 30 to July 3, was a resounding success. It was a remarkable and dynamic showcase of Ukrainian culture. Huge crowds came from across Canada to the town of Vegreville to experience the Pysanka Festival. Vegreville is renowned for its rich heritage of Ukrainian culture and hospitality.

Opening night in Edmonton featured two of Canada's finest dance groups, the Shumka and Cheremosh dancers, together with dozens of other dance groups. The finale included over 2,700 costumed young Albertans dancing to a 36-piece symphony orchestra. There was also a showcase of Ukrainian weaving, ceramics, and crafts. The greatest celebration was for the 1,000 years of Christianity of the Ukrainian people, the millennium.

Festival 88 was multiculturalism at its finest, one that other Canadians might emulate. Ukrainian culture is an integral and dynamic part of Canada. It is what makes me proud to be a Canadian of Ukrainian heritage.

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[Translation]

OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

BILL C-72—NATIONAL RECONCILIATION

Mr. Gilles Bernier (Beauce): Mr. Speaker, the Conservative Members from Quebec defend the interests of their province with pride and enthusiasm. They sincerely believe that the philosophy and objectives of the Conservative Party are aimed at protecting the interests of all Canadians across this country, whatever the colour of their skin or the language they speak.

Thanks to our Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) and Meech Lake, Quebecers are even prouder now they are truly citizens of this country. National reconciliation has given our policies new meaning. Harmony can exist in this country, provided we are generous and tolerant. The Prime Minister and this Government had the courage to introduce Bill C-72 on official languages. During the 16 years or more they were in power, the federal Liberals never had the nerve to introduce this kind of legislation, and furthermore, a quarter of the federal Liberal Members in this House voted against Meech Lake.

National reconciliation and recognition of bilingualism in Canada was accomplished by the Conservative Government, under the leadership of a great Canadian, Brian Mulroney!

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!