

S. O. 21

communications. This summit has also facilitated commercial exchanges with other countries having the use of French in common. This is a priority for our international trade. We now realize that our Prime Minister can recognize the jurisdiction of the Canadian provinces in various areas, which is a major component of good relations, while the previous Liberal Government had failed miserably in this regard.

The architect of the Meech Lake Accord, our Prime Minister, has succeeded in bringing together people with different mentalities and from provinces or countries with diversified needs and interests. At the Francophone Summit in Quebec City, the Prime Minister of Canada was thus able to achieve a consensus on sensitive issues. I cannot believe, Mr. Speaker, that the Canadian people would one day put their confidence in political parties which are totally divided and torn on crucial issues such as the Meech Lake Accord or free trade.

\* \* \*

• (1415)

[English]

#### THE LATE PAUL HIEBERT

**Mr. Simon de Jong (Regina East):** Mr. Speaker, this past Sunday the creator of the *Sweet Songstress of Saskatchewan*, Paul Hiebert, passed away at the age of 95.

Born in 1892, Paul Hiebert lived all but his student life in Manitoba. Although his first love was philosophy, Mr. Hiebert was a professor of chemistry at the University of Manitoba for 28 years. Paul was proud of his teaching. He often said that his teaching was very methodical, very well organized, and very prone to deal with some chemistry and a great deal of philosophy.

Throughout life, Paul was accompanied by Dorothea, his wife of over 60 years. They had no children, a conscious decision for the couple who worried about the uncertainty of the world they lived in. Paul Hiebert feared war and nuclear holocaust and believed that pacifism was the only solution to the confrontation between one nation and another.

His literary accomplishments were many, writing his much acclaimed *Sarah Binks*, in 1947 and subsequently being awarded the Stephen Leacock Medal for Humour in 1948. His last book, *Not as the Scribes*, was written only three years ago.

Hiebert once said that the real satisfaction in life is being one of the community, not standing aloof from it. Paul Hiebert lived this thought, and this week Canada has lost a very special teacher, philosopher, and humanitarian.

#### THE PRIME MINISTER

**Mr. Alan Redway (York East):** Mr. Speaker, how long have French-speaking nations around the world been striving to create a Francophone Summit? Who was the catalyst who finally made that happen? Our Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney).

How long have our provincial and federal Governments been striving to obtain unanimous agreement on a Canadian Constitution? Who was the catalyst who finally made that happen? Our Prime Minister.

We Canadians expect a great deal from our Prime Ministers. Most of us realize that no one person can possibly live up to all those expectations, because no one is perfect. However, above all, we do want a Prime Minister of Canada to be able to unite our country and to keep it working together.

Few if any Canadian Prime Ministers have done that quite as well as our present Prime Minister.

\* \* \*

[Translation]

#### TAX REFORM

##### OPPOSITION TO FOOD TAX

**Mr. Jean-Claude Malépart (Montreal—Sainte-Marie):** Mr. Speaker, a study released by the Canadian council of food distributors and wholesalers clearly indicates that if the Government maintains its intention to tax food the result will be a 12 to 13 per cent increase in food prices.

Mr. Speaker, the Canadian Welfare Council study also points directly to the failure of the Conservative Government with respect to the food tax: a family earning \$10,000 will have to cope with a \$353 tax increase imposed by this Government, and even though there will be a tax credit the net increase will amount to \$203.

I urge Conservative Members to convince the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson) and the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) to cancel this option to tax bread, milk and butter.

\* \* \*

[English]

#### HOUSE OF COMMONS

##### NEW PAGE STAFF WELCOMED

**Mr. Speaker:** Before commencing Question Period I should like to notify Hon. Members that today we have the pleasure of welcoming 42 new pages who join us from across Canada for the next year.