

STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S.O. 21

[English]

THE LATE JACKSON BEARDY

PASSING OF GREAT ARTIST

Mr. Cyril Keeper (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, Jackson Beardy has long been a part of our lives. Now he is a part of our heritage. His name is linked with those of Morriseau, Ray, and Objig, artists who gave a solid sense of pride to Indian people.

Jackson was a midwife to the rebirth of Indian culture and tradition. In his work one could see the spirituality which underpins Indian values. In the beginning his paintings sold for a pittance while he struggled to gain the recognition which he so richly deserved. In time, his work was recognized, first in Winnipeg and later at the National Arts Centre.

Canada has lost a great artist, Indian people a trail-blazer, and Manitoba a favourite son. We mourn his passing.

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[Translation]

STATISTICS CANADA

ACTIVE POPULATION DATA

Mr. Gilles Bernier (Beauce): Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit to the House some views on the Canadian Labour force data provided by Statistics Canada.

I feel that Canadians are poorly informed and receive information that may seem erroneous to them since the unemployment rate is calculated on the basis of the number of people in the labour force. However, the labour force includes workers receiving remuneration and the so-called officially unemployed, that is, those receiving unemployment insurance benefits. Mr. Speaker, many workers without jobs who are not eligible for unemployment insurance are not included in the labour force. Furthermore, people receiving social benefits such as welfare, who are able to work but have no other means of support than what the State has to offer, are also excluded from the labour force. It is high time we had official or more coherent statistics that reflect the Canadian situation in all areas of the economy.

Mr. Speaker, labour force data often form the basis for setting levels of monetary compensation under Government programs, both regionally and locally. Unfortunately, on the basis of these data, some ridings are penalized and fail to receive funds that are essential for economic recovery, and especially—

Mr. Speaker: I regret to inform the Hon. Member that his time has expired.

[English]

S.O. 21

THE ECONOMY

PRIME MINISTER'S ADDRESS TO NEW YORK BUSINESS AUDIENCE—EXPRESSION OF CONGRATULATIONS

Mr. Dan McKenzie (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Veterans Affairs): Mr. Speaker, last night in New York City the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) announced that once again Canada is open for business.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. McKenzie: His words won the standing ovations of American businessmen who were filled with gratification that their business initiatives are now wanted and welcomed by the Canadian people.

Great relief and pleasure were felt by both countries at learning that the Prime Minister is terminating the odious provisions of the National Energy Program. The Prime Minister has not only established a new harmony between Canada and the United States but has provided a major stepping stone toward the revitalization of our economy. Because of his warm invitation to our southern neighbours, the days of solving all problems in Canada by borrowing more money are finally coming to an end.

I am sure all Members of the House will want to join me in congratulating the Prime Minister on his successful visit to New York. A more appropriate time could not be had to provide Americans with an opportunity to do mutually profitable business with our country, and to give Canadians new hope for prosperity and a flourishing economy as we enter a new year.

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CULTURAL AFFAIRS

IMPACT OF BUDGETARY CUT-BACKS

Mr. Sergio Marchi (York West): Mr. Speaker, the cultural and artistic communities in Canada are asking themselves what happened to the Government on the way to Parliament Hill. Prior to the election these communities were wined and dined over a rich menu of promises and accolades. The Conservative Party boasted: "We are committed to real growth in federal contribution to cultural development".

The question remains: what happened after September 4? In short, with the tabling of the economic statement the cultural community was treated to the real dark colours of the Government. Not only was the CBC budget cut by a total of \$85 million but cultural agencies and projects lost \$15 million in funding.

The arts industry is very labour intensive. Approximately 66 per cent of its budget goes to salaries. Therefore government cuts will mean a significant reduction in jobs in this sector. These cuts will also undermine the value of the role the arts play in creating a cultural identity for all Canadians.