

# HOUSE OF COMMONS

Wednesday, May 7, 1986

The House met at 2 p.m.

## STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S.O. 21

[English]

### OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

#### SUPREME COURT JUDGMENTS

**Hon. Warren Allmand (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce—Lachine East):** Mr. Speaker, last Thursday the Supreme Court of Canada rendered two judgments which substantially reduced the constitutional language rights of French and English-speaking Canadians. The court ruled that Section 133 of the Constitution, 1867 gave the state—that is, cities, provinces, and the federal Government—the right to choose the language of a summons or proceeding before a federal and Quebec court, not the citizen who is called to answer before the court. This is a regrettable and illogical judgment. Surely the rights entrenched in Section 133, which allow the use of French or English before the courts, are to benefit individuals, not the state.

As a result of these judgments, a constitutional amendment is required to clarify and restore those rights. I urge the Government to respond positively to this request.

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### MULTICULTURALISM

#### UKRAINIAN-CANADIAN DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE FUNDING

**Mr. Ernie Epp (Thunder Bay—Nipigon):** Mr. Speaker, the Minister of State for Multiculturalism (Mr. Jelinek) thinks that his office has been spoon-feeding ethnocultural organizations which do not contribute to Canada. He declares that from now on grants will be given only to those organizations which are an investment in Canada. The Minister's view of these organizations as weak children unable to feed themselves has aroused resentment in many communities.

Members of the Ukrainian Canadian Development Committee in Edmonton have examined their financial statements and have discovered that federal multicultural funds made up about 1 per cent of their resources. The Ukrainian Canadian Development Committee is only one of many groups which have received very limited funding from Multiculturalism Canada and have been forced to depend on other sources, particularly their own members. These organizations have

invested far more of their own resources into the enhancement of a multicultural Canada than the Ministry of State for Multiculturalism has ever provided them. Their efforts deserve commendation rather than the criticism—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Sixty seconds.

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### EDUCATION

#### CANADIAN AMBASSADOR TO UNITED NATIONS— REPRESENTATIONS CONCERNING SCHOOL CURRICULA

**Mr. John Reimer (Kitchener):** Mr. Speaker, Canada's long-cherished role as an international peacekeeper has been eloquently enhanced by the indefatigable and insightful efforts of our present Ambassador to the United Nations, Mr. Stephen Lewis. Consequently, it was with surprise and consternation that I learned of the Ambassador's recent appeal to Canadian educators that so-called "peace activism" be made an indispensable component of high school curricula.

As a former teacher of Canadian history and a school board trustee, I am convinced that a conscientious and objective presentation of premise and fact best equips Canadian young people for analysis and debate, thereby allowing well-informed decision-making on a wide range of crucial issues, including international peacemaking. This is in stark contrast to the Ambassador's call for a "peace-activist" curricula. This myopic approach risks a pedagogy, whose method prejudices the issues and leads to conclusions which verge on uninformed propaganda. Therefore, I urge the ambassador to channel his undoubted capabilities in a manner which better reflect his appointment as Canada's representative—

● (1405)

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Sixty seconds.

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### EXTERNAL AID

#### SUPPORT FOR AFRICA 2000 PROGRAM

**Mr. Barry Turner (Ottawa—Carleton):** Mr. Speaker, when the Minister for External Relations (Mrs. Vézina) announced Operation Africa 2000 in the House yesterday we were all pleased to see that the thrust of the Government's initiative