

*S. O. 21*

## WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY

### COUNTRY-WIDE EFFORTS TO PROTECT AND ENHANCE ENVIRONMENT

**Mr. Bill Tupper (Nepean—Carleton):** Mr. Speaker, today nations throughout the world are celebrating World Environment Day. This coincides with our Environment Week, a week when Canadians are encouraged to become involved in the protection and enhancement of the environment.

A variety of events are taking place, ranging from spring clean-ups in Nova Scotia to clearing landslides which have blocked salmon spawning runs in British Columbia. Businesses and individuals are participating and, on behalf of the Government, I extend my appreciation to all those who have helped make Environment Week a success.

Threats to the environment are not just a Canadian problem; they are global. The micro and macro changes to the earth's support systems are perhaps our greatest global challenges which must be addressed. We have the technology and know-how to address environmental problems. Collectively we must maintain our will.

Canada and Canadians have been in the forefront of environmental preservation and improvement. Much remains to be done, and World Environment Day reminds us of that challenge and responsibility.

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[Translation]

## THE CONSTITUTION

### DISTINCT CHARACTER OF QUEBEC VIS-À-VIS REST OF COUNTRY

**Mr. Jean-Claude Malépart (Montreal—Sainte-Marie):** Mr. Speaker, some people are wondering about the meaning of Quebec's distinct character vis-à-vis the rest of the country. Distinct character does not imply that the Member for Montreal—Sainte-Marie is more worthy than the Member for Davenport (Mr. Caccia). Quebec's distinct character is a collective character in the sense that the majority speaks French, that a significant minority speaks English, and that cultural communities mirror Quebec's life and ethnicity. The majority in Ontario speaks English, the minority is franco-phone, and there are cultural communities as well.

So the distinct society which has been formally recognized this week reflects our collective differences. On an individual basis, the residents of Quebec, Newfoundland, Alberta, Winnipeg or wherever are all honourable people.

• (1110)

[English]

## PESTICIDES

### PATENT REGISTRATION CHANGES—INCREASED COMPETITION BETWEEN MANUFACTURERS

**Mr. Geoff Wilson (Swift Current—Maple Creek):** Mr. Speaker, subsidies to the farming sectors of the EEC and the United States continue to throttle our agricultural economy. While Canada continues to fight against these subsidies abroad, it is also taking action on behalf of Canadian farmers here at home.

The latest of the Government's ongoing efforts to aid our farming community has come in the form of changes to the product specific registration policy governing patents for pesticides. The changes will provide newly registered pesticides with a 10-year patent protection as opposed to unlimited protection under the old policy. When the 10-year protection runs out on a particular pesticide, other firms will be able to produce comparable generic products. The ensuing competition in the pesticide market should drive the price of pesticides down thereby reducing the over-all costs of farm inputs.

I congratulate the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Wise) for his actions in this regard. These needed changes to PSR policy are the direct result of the Government's ongoing commitment to Canadian farmers.

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## ABORIGINAL PEOPLES

### FUNDING OF NATIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

**Mr. John Parry (Kenora—Rainy River):** Mr. Speaker, I do not think the aboriginal community in Canada really knew what it was in for when the Tory Government took office in September, 1984.

The so-called "Buffalo Jump" report took us all by surprise, virtually rewriting the 1969 White Paper calling for funding cuts, means tests, land claim delays and the transfer of programs through the provinces and territories.

The Nielsen prescription is becoming a reality. We have cut-backs in labour assistance for housing programs, continued delays in the reinstatement of aboriginal people under Bill C-31, and two weeks ago the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (Mr. McKnight) announced limits to the entry of young native people into the post-secondary school system, despite the obvious need and proven success of the program.

Last night it was revealed that government mismanagement may result in a freeze on native economic development programs, programs which still only provide the barest impact on unemployment levels, reaching 85 per cent in many communities.