

*S. O. 21***ABORTION**

FORTHCOMING VOTE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTION

Mr. Rob Nicholson (Niagara Falls): Mr. Speaker, Monday, May 11, marks a significant day in the life of this Parliament. It will be the first time in this Parliament that there will be a recorded vote on a Private Members' Motion. Motion M-37 asks Parliament and the provinces to amend the Charter of Rights and Freedoms to include unborn children as a protected category.

Abortion is one of the great moral questions of the 20th century. In September, 1984, the people of Canada sent us here to take tough decisions. I believe every Member should state clearly how he or she stands on this issue. I suggest it is unacceptable for Members to avoid making a decision because of procedural difficulties with the motion. We owe more than that to ourselves and our constituents. Therefore, on Monday, May 11, I say to all Members: Stand up and be counted; all of Canada will be watching.

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FORESTRY

BRUNDTLAND REPORT—EFFECT OF DEPLETION OF FOREST RESOURCES

Mr. Jim Manly (Cowichan—Malahat—The Islands): Mr. Speaker, Canada has designated May 4 to May 10 as Forestry Week. In view of the Brundtland report released last week by the World Commission on Environment and Development, I remind the Government of the urgent need not only for increased awareness of the state of Canada's forests, but of the grave predictions regarding the environment of the entire world.

One billion people on this earth are forced to cut more trees than they plant, literally cutting away the lungs of the earth. As this continues deserts spread, the number of species diminishes, and the climate changes. The Brundtland report charges that all those in a position of power to alter this situation must be held accountable for the pollution and loss of resources caused by their decisions.

Each year an area of forest the size of Newfoundland is destroyed. Some 40 per cent of the world's tropical forests are already gone. Each year an area the size of Nova Scotia is turned to desert, increasing the more than one-third of the world which has already suffered desertification. I call on the Government to raise the priority for forestry and agro-forestry projects in the Third World, and on CIDA specifically to put more emphasis on non-exploitive forestry.

[Translation]

THE LATE RAYMOND BLAIS

Mr. Gabriel Fontaine (Lévis): Mr. Speaker, tomorrow, May 6, 1987, in the Saint-David church, the family of Mr. Raymond Blais will pay their last respects to this outstanding Canadian. South shore residents will sympathize with Quebecers and Canadians as evidence of their sorrow and their loss.

Raymond Blais devoted his professional life to the co-operative movement, the Mouvement Desjardins. Under the guidance of Raymond Blais the Desjardins co-operative movement crossed world boundaries.

A dreadful illness took away the husband, the father, the friend, the public man loved by everybody.

May his soul rest in peace.

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UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

REIMBURSEMENT OF CONTRIBUTIONS TO CERTAIN WORKERS

Mr. Jean-Claude Malépart (Montreal—Sainte-Marie): Mr. Speaker, yesterday in the riding of Rosemont, I met with residents of Hochelaga—Maisonneuve and Mercier, three constituencies represented by Conservative Members, and again I spoke with older workers who are wondering what the Conservative Government is waiting for before proceeding with second reading, committee stage and third reading of the legislative measures aimed at reimbursing unemployment insurance benefits.

Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, this Government and Hon. Members have no idea whether the Minister of Employment and Immigration (Mr. Bouchard) is prepared to proceed immediately with all stages of the Bill with a view to reimbursing the 35,000 Canadian workers, including 13,000 in Quebec. The Liberals are ready.

But, unlike the Conservative Members, we will never agree to discriminate against older workers, men and women who lost their job and will have to find another to become eligible. Never will the Liberals under the Right Hon. John Turner accept such discrimination towards older workers.

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FORESTRY WEEK

IMPORTANCE OF FOREST RESOURCE

Mr. Guy St. Julien (Abitibi): Mr. Speaker, I would like to stress the importance of Forestry Week during Tree and Forest Week in Canada. On behalf of 43,000 people who work in the pulp and paper industry in Quebec, 24,000 who work in the lumber industry and 9,000 employed by forestry operations, on behalf of more than 127,000 people whose jobs depend indirectly on the forestry industry in Quebec, on behalf of