

Statements by Ministers

Mr. Marchi: Brief? To the point?

Mr. Speaker: Tomorrow.

An Hon. Member: Do you feel persecuted?

Mr. Speaker: Order.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[Translation]

PETITIONS

GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

Mr. Doug Lewis (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 106(8), I have the honour of tabling, in both official languages, the Government's response to the following six petitions: Nos. 331-34, 331-43, 331-96, 331-128, 331-248 and 331-356.

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[English]

PROCEDURE AND ORGANIZATION

TABLING OF GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO FIRST REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

Hon. Barbara McDougall (Minister of State (Finance)): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 99(2), I wish to lay upon the Table, in both official languages, copies of the Government's response to the First Report of the Standing Committee on Procedure and Organization.

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ORGAN DONOR AWARENESS WEEK

MINISTER'S STATEMENT

Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to alert my fellow Parliamentarians and Canadians that National Organ Donor Awareness Week will begin on Sunday, April 20, and extend to Saturday, April 26.

Recipients of Family Allowance cheques will find with their cheques this month a leaflet on organ donation with a detachable organ donor card. Information kits have been distributed to the media and most Canadian hospitals alerting them to the importance of organ donation and transplantation and providing them with resource items to facilitate their involvement.

I shall officially launch the week at a news conference in Halifax on Monday. I look forward to joining Hon. Members

of the House, representatives of the transplant community, transplant recipients and a donor family at a breakfast meeting sponsored by Transplant International (Canada) on Tuesday, April 22, in the West Block.

Today thousands of Canadians are awaiting a transplant which will improve the quality of their life. For many of these people a transplant offers them the only chance for survival. However, many will not receive that transplant because there are not enough organs and tissues available. I, therefore, urge all Hon. Members to make a personal commitment to organ donation and to do what they can to encourage organ donation in their constituencies. Please sign a donor card or the donor card portion of your driver's licence. Please inform your family and doctor about your wishes. Consider what you can do to make something good happen by giving the most generous gift of all, the gift of life.

[Translation]

Mrs. Lucie Pépin (Outremont): Mr. Speaker, I was delighted to hear the Minister promoting organ donations and also to hear his announcement that he will be taking part next week in an organ donation awareness campaign.

I think it is very important to publicize organ donations, because a substantial number of Canadian men and women depend on such donations in order to survive or to substantially improve their quality of life.

The example of Diane Hébert will help to convince people that an organ donation can be a real success. This young woman waited more than two years for a heart-lung transplant. Today, she is asking to have transplants made easier by giving people the option of indicating their desire to make organ donations on their health insurance cards. This month, family allowance cheque recipients will receive a leaflet urging them to make organ donations. I too want to urge them to make organ donations and I would also ask all my colleagues in our three political groups here in the House and everyone in the beautiful riding of Outremont to do likewise. An organ donation is truly a gift of life.

[English]

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops-Shuswap): Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure to respond on behalf of my colleagues in the New Democratic Party in support of the initiative of the Minister. We congratulate him for the statement he has made in the House today urging all Canadians to participate in the donation of organs for this most valuable reason.

Indeed, it is a wonder of science that enables us to make this ultimate gesture, the giving of life itself. The Minister has identified next week as being National Donor Awareness Week. Perhaps as Members of Parliament we can pledge our own organs next week as a dedication to science and transplantation purposes. Again, we applaud the Minister for this initiative and we will encourage our constituents to follow suit.