

technologies that can protect the environment, create new industries and lead to further diversification of Alberta's economy.

Albertans applauded this move which will provide an important focus for encouraging the development and use of renewable energy sources that are safe, economic and environmentally acceptable.

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[Translation]

REPUBLIC OF ZAIRE

Hon. André Ouellet (Papineau—Saint-Michel): Madam Speaker, recently in my constituency constituency office, I met representatives of the Zairian community in Canada and more specifically representatives of the Union for Democracy and Social Progress.

All these people told me that the most serious opponents of President Mobutu were all systematically arrested, jailed or persecuted. They think that the most basic human rights in that country are being continually violated.

Ebua Marcel Lihau, president of the UDSP (Union for Democracy and Social Progress), who met with Canadian officials yesterday, told us that he cannot go back to Zaire unless minimum conditions for his security are assured.

I therefore call on the Canadian government to ask the Zairian authorities, especially President Mobutu, to respect their citizens' rights to freedom, since Zaire will host the next Francophone Summit.

I think that Canada should not attend this summit without assurances from the President of Zaire that he will respect the rights of Zairian citizens.

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[English]

ANTI-SEMITISM

Mr. Benno Friesen (Parliamentary Secretary to Solicitor General of Canada): Madam Speaker, I too want to join others and speak out against the desecration of the Jewish cemetery yesterday at St. Foy.

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It is difficult for decent Canadians anywhere to understand vandalism of any kind. When it is desecration of a cemetery it is particularly revolting, and when that desecration is pointed at any particular ethnic community it strikes fear in the hearts of all Canadians.

The Jewish community has been singled out. We have to understand and believe it is not just a cemetery that has been desecrated. It is also pointed at the living community. The Jewish people have suffered enough humiliation, fear, persecution and death in their lifetime.

It is time for us to build bridges of kindness and understanding. It is time for us to realize that when this is directed at the Jewish community, it is also directed at other minority groups.

I call upon all Canadians to build bridges of understanding and caring for all people and, in this case, particularly for the Jewish community.

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UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

Mr. Cid Samson (Timmins—Chapleau): Madam Speaker, the Conservative government has sunk to a new low in its disregard for the Canadian democratic process. Once again the Tories are enforcing legislation which has not passed into law.

Yesterday, before the Standing Committee on Labour, Employment, and Immigration, the Minister of Employment admitted that Revenue Canada has urged employers to deduct the higher premium rate contained in Bill C-21. The higher premiums are voluntary, but the minister admitted that many workers and employers are not aware of this fact. Further, she cautioned the government would go after any premiums that are still owing since the higher rate would be retroactive to January 1, 1990.

It is interesting to note that, while the collection of premiums is retroactive, benefits such as parental leave are not. New parents who have paid these higher premiums will not be entitled to 10 weeks of parental leave if their child arrives prior to the passage of the legislation.

Canadians are tired of paying for a government which enforces legislation not passed and governs to suit its own warped agenda at the expense of the fundamental principles of democracy.