

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Thursday, October 25, 1990

The House met at 11 a.m.

Prayers

[Translation]

OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

TABLING OF SPECIAL REPORT OF COMMISSIONER OF OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

Mr. Speaker: I have the honour to table a special report presented to Parliament by the Commissioner of Official Languages, in accordance with section 67 of the Official Languages Act.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

PETITIONS

GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

Mr. Albert Cooper (Parliamentary Secretary to Leader of the Government in the House of Commons): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 36(8), I have the honour to table, in both official languages, the government's response to several petitions.

[Editor's Note: See today's Votes and Proceedings.]

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IMMIGRATION

TABLING OF ANNUAL REPORT

Hon. Barbara McDougall (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 32(2), I have the honour to table, in both official languages, copies of the annual report to Parliament, Immigration Plan for 1991-1995.

IMMIGRATION PLAN FOR 1991-1995

Hon. Barbara McDougall (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to table today the government's annual report to Parliament which provides an immigration plan for Canada for 1991 to 1995.

I should point out that this is the first time that the government has introduced a five-year plan. Traditionally, we have had in our Parliament a one-year plan on immigration. This five-year planning horizon is only one of the innovations that we have introduced to ensure that immigration to Canada continues to play an important role in our government's social and economic policies.

[Translation]

By adopting a five-year time horizon, there is sufficient lead time for our many partners in the process to develop their own plans to accommodate the people who wish to come to Canada.

I stress this need for planning and management of the process, because many people try to reduce this important policy initiative to a simple game of numbers.

Mr. Speaker, there are real people behind those numbers—people with real stories, real hopes and dreams—people who have chosen Canada as their new home.

[English]

It is our responsibility as a government to ensure that policies and program are in place to ensure that these people can integrate quickly and comfortably into Canadian society.

As part of my report, I am very pleased to provide a new federal integration strategy which will ensure greater collaboration with the provinces, with immigrant-serving organizations, and with the private sector, as well as new programs and funding for language training for newcomers to Canada.

Much of the strategy was developed as a result of the extensive consultation process that I initiated across the country this past year, a process that included the