

[Translation]

THE ADMINISTRATION

GOVERNMENT'S ACHIEVEMENTS DURING PAST TEN MONTHS

Mrs. Lise Bourgault (Argenteuil-Papineau): Mr. Speaker, today our Government ends a session which will prove to be very important for the future of Canada. Over the past ten months we have made every effort in an attempt to correct and lighten the heavy burden left behind by the previous administration.

After ten months of work, Mr. Speaker, our Government is proud of its outstanding performance. Among other achievements I might mention the settlement of the Mirabel expropriation issue after 16 years of consecutive failures; the re-opening of many VIA Rail passenger lines; the signature of federal-provincial agreements on industrial development, tourism, communications and forestry; pensions for widows and widowers aged 60 to 64, just to name a few.

Our Government has also paved the way for the proposed parliamentary reform designed to give all Hon. Members the opportunity to participate actively in Government decisions. I had the privilege of sitting on the special committee presided by the Hon. James McGrath, and I hope that the reform will become reality at the beginning of the new session.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I want to tell the House that I am very proud and honoured to represent the constituency of Argenteuil-Papineau. My constituents realized that a young Government having to cope with a legacy of unemployment and public debts could hardly have done more in only ten months.

I have confidence in the future and in our Government. I am convinced that the people of Canada strongly support our policies aimed at reducing the deficit.

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[English]

THE DISABLED AND THE HANDICAPPED

CROSS-CANADA "WALK FOR THE BLIND" BY BRITISH COLUMBIA GRANDMOTHER

Mr. Ted Schellenberg (Nanaimo-Alberni): Mr. Speaker, it is for good reason that many of Canada's most outstanding individuals and national heroes come from my home province of British Columbia. It is a land of rugged individualism, with people as tall as the mountains. Terry Fox and Steve Fonyo are two names that come to mind.

Last night, Mr. Speaker, you warmly welcomed another B.C. hero to Ottawa, wheelchair marathoner Rick Hanson.

Today I would like to call the attention of the House and our nation to another rugged individualist from British Columbia, a 57-year old grandmother, Hildegard Buschhaus, of Coombs, a small town in the middle of my riding.

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This summer Hildegard is walking across Canada to raise funds for the visually impaired. Her "Walk for the Blind" began on March 20 at Tofino on the Pacific Rim of our nation. Today she has reached Sault Ste Marie, and on July 22 Hildegard will reach Ottawa. By autumn the good people of Newfoundland will welcome her to their shores.

The "Walk for the Blind" intends to raise the awareness of Canadians to the plight of the visually impaired. Hildegard Buschhaus needs your support and our support. On behalf of my colleagues may I say: "Bonne chance, grand-mère, bonne chance".

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[Translation]

THE ADMINISTRATION

MAJOR ACTIVITIES AND POLICY OF GOVERNMENT DURING PAST TEN MONTHS

Mr. Jean-Claude Malépart (Montreal-Sainte-Marie): This being the end of the session, Mr. Speaker, I would like to go over the recent past and sum up what has happened since September 4 and since November 5 when the House resumed its sittings.

Most people will recall that House business before the holiday season had to do with universality. Again the Government had failed to live up to its promise, but it had to reverse its decision as a result of strong opposition from the Liberals and the New Democrats.

The major activities of this Government and this Parliament after New Year's Day were highlighted by scandal—the Hatfield-MacKay scandal; the scandal related to the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson) and his brother-in-law; the scandal related to Clark and his brother; and the scandal of the Minister of Justice (Mr. Crosbie) and his children.

The second incident which drew attention was again a promise which the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) wanted to break concerning the deindexation of old age security pensions.

To mark the end of the session, Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister thought he would offer a gift to all Canadians, so as of July 1 candies, medicine, soap, tooth paste, everything will be subject to a 10 per cent tax. That, Mr. Speaker, is the balance sheet of this Government since September 4.