

tarnished with acts of unprecedented violence which must be categorically condemned by all.

Our so-called industrialized societies seem to have become the preferred targets of hatemongers and assassins. Whatever the motives of the perpetrators of such savage and senseless acts, their murderous rampages can never be considered justifiable.

I am calling on all of the members of this House and all Canadians to join in the fight against intolerance and hatred in our society.

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[English]

RWANDA

Mr. John Godfrey (Don Valley West, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, following on the remarks of the previous member, like all Canadians I am sure that all members of the House join me in their condemnation of the continuing atrocities in Rwanda. This weekend we learned of yet another attack on innocent civilians and the death of several thousand Rwandan citizens.

There comes a time when the long accepted international principle of the absolute right of national sovereignty to take priority over all other rights must be put aside in the name of international human rights and common decency.

I suggest that the citizens of Rwanda, like those of Somalia or the former Yugoslavia possess inalienable rights of freedom and life. Quite clearly these rights no longer exist. The Rwandan government must be held accountable for the actions of its army and justice must be served.

I believe that Canadians have a role to play in achieving peace in this region. We have been and continue to be a world leader in the fight for peace. There is no place in this world for mass murder and ethnic cleansing. The voice of peace and freedom must be heard.

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SMUGGLING

Mr. Ed Harper (Simcoe Centre, Ref.): Mr. Speaker, the people of Ontario are a caring people. Throughout the history of this province they have contributed generously to confederation.

This generosity, however, is being put to the test by the government. Despite electing 98 Liberal MPs in the last election, issues that concern Ontario are not being addressed. Nothing exemplifies this lack of representation more than the growing smuggling problem.

The Liberal solution to smuggling announced last February has failed to stem the tide of guns, alcohol, drugs and tobacco streaming into Ontario. Smuggling accounts for the vast majority of cases involving the criminal use of firearms in Ontario and it facilitates the illegal use of drugs. It has cost thousands of jobs

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in the distilling industry and the government has lost billions of dollars in revenue.

The old saying about safety in numbers obviously does not apply to Ontario's voice in Ottawa.

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• (1415)

NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK

Mrs. Jean Payne (St. John's West, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, the week of April 23 to April 29 is National Volunteer Week in Canada. This week communities all across our great nation pay tribute to those people who volunteer their time and skills to help their fellow Canadians.

National Volunteer Week was first proclaimed in 1943. Now, over 50 years later, we take this week to recognize the contributions that volunteers make to our way of life. From the people who sit on the boards of community support organizations such as St. John Ambulance to hockey coaches who give up their Saturday mornings to show children the joy and value of team work volunteers give the most valuable gift of all: their time.

In particular I take this opportunity to recognize the contributions of a constituent of mine, Mr. John O'Regan, who was named volunteer of the year by the Newfoundland and Labrador Chamber of Commerce for his many years of outstanding and dedicated community service.

I invite all members of the House to join with me in paying tribute today to all Canadians who volunteer their time and skills to make Canada the great nation it is.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[Translation]

G-7 SUMMIT

Hon. Lucien Bouchard (Leader of the Opposition, BQ): Mr. Speaker, last Friday when he visited the Valcartier military base, the Prime Minister said that Quebec City lost the G-7 Summit because the Canadian flag is not flown from the city hall.

My question is directed to the Prime Minister. I want to ask him whether he does not think it was rather petty to disqualify Quebec City just because of a flag?

Right Hon. Jean Chrétien (Prime Minister, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, Halifax was selected on the merits of its location. The first economic summit was held in Quebec at Montebello. The second summit was held in Toronto, and we decided to have the third one in Halifax, in the Maritimes where occasions like this one are few and far between. At the time, we received representations from a number of people from Quebec City and, as I said at the time, it is not very pleasant when the mayor of a city in