

S. O. 21

[*Translation*]

THE ENVIRONMENT

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT WEEK

Ms. Lynn McDonald (Broadview—Greenwood): Mr. Speaker, this week is National Environment Week, but there is really no cause for celebration.

The federal Government has dropped the acid rain issue, and the clean-up of toxic waste in the Great Lakes was not even mentioned at the recent Summit, despite promises made by the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney).

[*English*]

The Canadian Coalition on Acid Rain has not had its funding renewed. The agreement on South Moresby Island which was supposed to be signed today has not been signed.

A closer reading of the so-called free trade agreement reveals that controls over our environment were bargained away. Even our precious non-renewable resources become goods on the market. Conservation as an objective becomes ever less likely.

Water, too, is a good, according to the agreement, so that once exports begin we will have to continue sharing this valuable resource.

The Government's water policy is not legislated, which it should be, but even that will not provide real protection, for the free trade agreement will take precedence over mere legislation.

The best way for the environment to be celebrated this week would be for the Government to call an election on the issue. Canadians want real action on the environment, not a token Environment Week with government controlled PR.

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● (1410)

[*Translation*]

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT WEEK

REQUEST THAT CANADIANS PROTECT ENVIRONMENT

Mr. Gabriel Desjardins (Témiscamingue): Mr. Speaker, this week, from May 30 to June 5, is National Environment Week, and the theme is: Our Common Future.

I think we all realize the threat to humanity today and that our survival depends directly on the concrete action that will be taken during the next decades.

This week is an opportunity for Canadians to express their environmental concerns and to make a personal commitment to protect our environment.

One of this week's themes is: "Talk it up!". Mr. Speaker, I hope that across this country, in our classrooms and our educational institutions, at our jobs and in the media, we will talk a lot about the environment this week.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank all environmental groups, especially those in Abitibi—Témiscamingue, our environmental watchdogs, for their major contribution towards building a better and healthier world.

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[*English*]

SPORTS

BOXING—LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT WORLD CHAMPION DONNY LALONDE

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Winnipeg—Fort Garry): Mr. Speaker, yesterday in Port of Spain a young man from the Fort Rouge district of Winnipeg successfully defended his light heavyweight world championship.

In this House many of us at times pay tribute to Canadians who have demonstrated exemplary prowess in various fields of endeavour. We all acknowledge the great accomplishment that Donny Lalonde has made on behalf of Canada.

There is a special case for paying attention to the accomplishment yesterday. Donny Lalonde has not only shown courage in the ring, but courage in bringing to public attention his own childhood experiences of abuse. He has since devoted his position to bringing other Canadians to understand the terrible scourge of that travesty that takes place with so many young people.

The best way for Members of the House of Commons to acknowledge the accomplishments of Donny Lalonde would be to devote our own attention and interest to the problem of child abuse which Donny Lalonde so eloquently and forcefully expresses on behalf of so many Canadians.

I hope that those of us who applaud his skill in the ring will also recognize that he has fought back from the terrible handicap of his childhood and now provides a real example of leadership to many other young people in this country who face a similar problem.

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HUMAN RIGHTS

DEATH OF CZECHOSLOVAKIAN ACTIVIST PAVEL WONKA

Mr. Andrew Witer (Parkdale—High Park): Mr. Speaker, on April 26, 1988, Pavel Wonka, a 35-year old human rights activist, died suddenly in a Czechoslovakian prison. The circumstances surrounding his death have raised grave suspicions.