

S. O. 31

time for solitude to think and to reflect. I hope all members do that.

I wish everybody a good recess, and I look forward to the debates and the excitement that is going to happen when we come back on May 13.

Hon. Chas. L. Caccia (Davenport): Madam Speaker, I would like to thank the parliamentary secretary for his grade 5 essay.

One should be a bit more generous and say grade 6 essay, and congratulate and give him high marks for his knowledge of geography, with high marks also for his self-congratulatory skills and in looking deeply and closely at a few trees. He saw a few trees. I do not know if he saw the forest.

One should give him high marks for delivering a 45-minute speech in the pursuit of bubbles, rumours and fantasies and for revealing the depth of the intellectual capacity of his government on whose behalf he has obviously spoken. Certainly, he deserves high marks for a masterful, political analysis of the situation today in Canada.

If that is what the cabinet of the Government of Canada can produce on the Adjournment Debate, then everybody understands why we are in trouble.

In reply, I would say that rarely in the history of Parliament has the government asked for an adjournment of Parliament immediately after returning from an Easter recess. I could hardly believe my ears when the parliamentary secretary wished us a happy recess and a good rest.

We have just come back from a recess. What is he talking about? Does he realize that we just had Easter and that we just got back from a recess?

Why are we having an adjournment? If there is a good reason, we would like to hear it. Canadians are entitled to hear it, but we did not hear it in the 50-minute speech of the parliamentary secretary.

To be quite fair in this debate, as we always try to be, I would add that Canadians would find nothing wrong with the government deciding to adjourn today and resume next week with a brand new session and a speech from the throne. Unfortunately, that is not the case.

At the same time, the country is in trouble because of high unemployment, dissatisfaction in Quebec and in the

west, understandable unrest amongst native people in Oka, James Bay, Alberta and British Columbia because of the lack of a federal role when it comes to proposed major construction of river dams in three provinces, and the dissatisfaction of the public with the way we manage our forests. We are in deep trouble because civil servants are overworked and understaffed—

Madam Deputy Speaker: Unfortunately I must interrupt the hon. member who of course will have the floor after Question Period.

[*Translation*]

It being 11 o'clock, pursuant to Standing Order 30(5), the House will now proceed to Members' Statements pursuant to Standing Order 31.

STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S. O. 31

[*English*]

THE CONSTITUTION

Hon. Alan Redway (Don Valley East): Madam Speaker, if we are going to address all of Canadians' constitutional concerns, we will have to take a look at the Charter of Rights and Freedoms as well.

Many Canadians feel that the Charter is fine the way it is. But there are some who want to add to it the right to private property, or the right to medicare or the right to shelter. Others believe that the Charter should spell out our responsibilities and our obligations as well as our rights and freedoms. Still others want to eliminate the "notwithstanding clause". There are those who believe that Charter rights should apply only to Canadian citizens and not to refugee claimants or fugitives from foreign justice and others who want to delete references to official bilingualism or multiculturalism.

Whatever we do, we are bound to be unhappy at times when the Charter protects a right that some of us would rather it did not.

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GASOLINE ADDITIVES

Hon. Ralph Ferguson (Lambton—Middlesex): Madam Speaker, I rise today to call on the government to introduce legislation to support the use of ethanol and to ban MMT in Canadian automotive fuels.