

S. O. 31

My hope is that we will all begin to feel this confidence, rekindle our optimism and together rebuild the national economy.

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REVEREND BRIAN WEATHERDON

Mr. Mac Harb (Ottawa Centre): Mr. Speaker, Reverend Brian Weatherdon, the respected, hard working and loyal associate minister of St. Andrew's Church, has recently been called to a new ministry in Hamilton.

During the five years Brian has ministered in Ottawa he has played a key leadership role in advancing important issues such as the fight against child poverty and the organization of nutrition programs for families in need. He was also very instrumental in helping me to establish National Child Day.

His enthusiasm and his dedication to his congregation and the Ottawa community have been exceptional.

Brian will leave behind countless accomplishments, memories and friends. I along with many others am sad to see Brian leave. He can be very proud of the meaningful contributions he has made to this community.

On Easter Sunday, Brian will take up his new duties as the minister at MacNab Street Presbyterian Church in downtown Hamilton.

I would like to inform the members from the Hamilton area that a very remarkable and generous man will soon be in their neighbourhood.

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SPRING

Ms. Hedy Fry (Vancouver Centre): Mr. Speaker, Sunday was the first day of spring in Canada, or at least it was in my city of Vancouver.

Today I have attempted to bring the sweet air of our west coast spring to Ottawa. In the lobbies outside this House are 295 daffodils for 295 members of Parliament. It is my wish that these daffodils like spring itself awaken the creative passions of members of the House of Commons.

• (1405)

The challenge before us of making Canada work better requires the swiftness of a sudden spring shower, the resolution of a blossom, and the certitude of a thaw.

May these daffodils, generously donated by a Vancouver radio station as well as by a fine corporate community partner, serve as a pleasant reminder that with spring comes hope, renewal and growth.

[Translation]

THE INFORMATION HIGHWAY

Mr. Réal Ménard (Hochelaga—Maisonnette): Mr. Speaker, the information highway is unquestionably the technological issue of the day. Once completed, the information highway will bring together telephone, cable and computer technology with a view to providing a wide range of interactive services to consumers.

The information highway will alter consumer, work and education habits and impact on the private lives of Canadians and Quebecers.

Therefore, the Minister of Industry must commit publicly to holding public, open, transparent and accessible hearings on this subject, not consultations behind closed doors, as the committee is expected to hold.

As Ottawa prepares to put in place the administrative machinery to manage the information highway, protecting the privacy of Canadians and Quebecers must be one of the federal government's main concerns.

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[English]

FORUM FOR YOUNG CANADIANS

Mr. Dick Harris (Prince George—Bulkley Valley): Mr. Speaker, I rise in the House today to give tribute to the Forum for Young Canadians.

As hon. members know, participants in the Forum for Young Canadians are in Ottawa this week to learn more about the process of government at the federal level. I know all members will join me in praising the organizers, the sponsors and the many volunteers who have made this forum a reality.

I wish to give special tribute to each of the participants, our future leaders, and in particular to a young constituent of mine, Jennifer Robinson of Prince George, B.C.

Welcome to Ottawa and best wishes for a most successful session.

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MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY

Mr. Gar Knutson (Elgin—Norfolk): Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak briefly on a question of urgency in my riding of Elgin—Norfolk: the need for Canada to have an updated industrial strategy.

To many in my riding words like "change" and "competition" are synonymous with plant closings and higher unemployment. Almost one job in four in my riding is in the highly vulnerable manufacturing sector. Over one-third of the industrial park in the city of St. Thomas is empty. It should be clear to