

S. O. 31

Government of Quebec has led the fight to protect personal information by regulating the selling of name lists. Quebec's bold Bill 68 is designed after similar legislation in western European countries.

This Thursday Bill C-315 will be introduced in the House for second reading debate. Bill C-315 accurately reflects the growing need to protect Canadians' control of their personal information. Members of the House will have the opportunity to debate the issue then. I look forward to participating in the debate on Thursday.

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CANADIAN UNITY

Mr. Julian Reed (Halton—Peel, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, as the referendum date draws near I would like to acknowledge a package received from a grade 13 politics class at Mayfield Secondary School in the riding I serve. Not only have over 450 students signed a petition stating the importance of Canada's unity, they have also put together a video cassette in which they have voiced their concerns over the referendum as well as their love of the province of Quebec. This is being sent to a secondary school in Quebec.

All Canadians are concerned about the Quebec referendum and its long term effects on Canada. Canada is not whole without Quebec, and it would be in everyone's best interest that Canada remain united.

We should realize that all Canadians, from the youngest to the oldest, have an enormous stake in the country. Our youth are concerned. They have every right to be. The rest of their lives hangs in the balance of the referendum. Canada's youth should not be overlooked or disregarded.

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UNITED NATIONS

Mr. John English (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Queen's Privy Council for Canada and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, today, October 24, is an anniversary that celebrates peace over war and unity over division. Fifty years ago 31 nations from around the globe ratified the UN charter. It was on that day that Canada and other like-minded countries sought to ensure the peace and security that had proven so elusive to their generation.

Today every Canadian from Quebec to Newfoundland to British Columbia can take pride in the accomplishments of Canada within the UN as exemplified by prominent Canadians like Lester Pearson, Major General Roméo Dallaire and Mr. Jules Deschênes at the World Court in The Hague. All have helped to build a strong and flourishing reputation for Canada.

The UN espouses the principles of unity and co-operation. As we approach an uncertain time in our own history, let us remember how we as Canadians have promoted such principles. October 24 marks an opportunity for all of us, from coast to coast, to reflect on what a united country can achieve and what a divided country will certainly lose.

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[Translation]

CHÉTICAMP COMMUNITY RADIO

Mr. Francis G. LeBlanc (Cape Breton Highlands—Canso, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, on Sunday, I took part in the official opening of CKJM, the new community radio station that has just gone on the air in Chéticamp and the Cape Breton Highlands.

This is the conclusion of five years' work by Normand Poirier, Angus Lefort and Daniel Aucoin and many other volunteers, who wanted to give Acadians in the area their own community radio as a means of local development. Their efforts were backed by the Government of Canada and strongly supported by the 5,000 or so listeners in the station's coverage area.

The opening ceremony was followed by a show featuring a variety of local musical talent. The show proved the point, if proof is required, that French language and culture are very much alive in Chéticamp, Grand-Étang, Saint-Joseph-du-Moine and many other places in Nova Scotia.

The Acadian people here have roots, language and culture in common with the francophones of Quebec. They fervently hope they will continue to have a country in common after October 30.

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FREE TRADE

Mr. Benoît Sauvageau (Terrebonne, BQ): Mr. Speaker, Claude Cheysson, former French minister of foreign affairs and former commissioner of the European Community confirmed yesterday that the European Union could sign a free trade agreement with a sovereign Quebec. Mr. Cheysson thus recognized Quebec's special position between North America and Europe.

• (1405)

Free trade agreements will soon be signed between the European Union and Mexico and Tunisia. The idea of strengthening Quebec's position as a special European partner in North America is particularly attractive.

So, as Quebec enjoys special ties with its North American and Latin American partners, could it be that Canada alone has yet to comprehend the virtues of partnership? The Government of Canada has been trying unsuccessfully for some time now to sell the idea of a free trade agreement between NAFTA and the European Union. Perhaps a sovereign Quebec will succeed where Canada has failed.