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THE ENVIRONMENT

CHERNOBYL ACCIDENT—RADIATION FALL-OUT

Mr. Alex Kindy (Calgary Northeast): Mr. Speaker, three years ago in April of 1986 a major nuclear disaster occurred in Ukraine. The first hint of a nuclear nightmare reached Scandinavia on a southeast wind. Swedish monitoring devices began to detect abnormally high levels of radiation. Only two days later the Soviet Government admitted that a nuclear accident had occurred in Chernobyl in Ukraine some 100 kilometres north of Kiev.

The fall-out of this accident reminds us of the atomic explosion in Hiroshima. Recent reports indicate that 25 villages around Chernobyl have had to be evacuated because of the nuclear fall-out. There has been significant increase in illnesses, including anemia and breakdown of the immune system, since that accident.

Some 200,000 babies were born in the vicinity of Chernobyl. We should urge the Soviet Government to be open about the medical follow-up of those children so that we know really what effect this explosion has had on their development.

This nuclear disaster should remind the world that we need international co-operation and controls on the proliferation of nuclear devices.

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[Translation]

BEATIFICATION OF
MARIE-CATHERINE-DE-SAINT-AUGUSTIN

Mrs. Suzanne Duplessis (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of State (Science and Technology)): Mr. Speaker, last Sunday on April 23, I had the pleasure of attending the beatification of Sister Marie-Catherine-de-Saint-Augustin in Rome, where I represented the Canadian Government at the ceremony led by His Holiness Pope John Paul II.

In 1648, Sister Marie-Catherine-de-Saint-Augustin arrived by ship in Quebec City. An exceptional woman, she directed the construction of the first hospital in Quebec City. She also founded a congregation and devoted her entire life to the destitute.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Canadian Government, I wish to congratulate the *communauté des Hospitalières de Saint-Augustin* on receiving this great honour which is also an honour for all Canadians.

Mr. Speaker, I also had the pleasure of meeting His Holiness the Pope, and I must say it was a truly unforgettable and extremely moving moment, and I hope that all Canadian Catholics will some day have a chance to meet His Holiness.

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[English]

THE BUDGET

COST OF ADVERTIZING

Ms. Joy Langan (Mission—Coquitlam): Mr. Speaker, the Government's campaign to sell its Budget is entitled "Of consuming interest". What is really of consuming interest to Canadians is the cost to us of the current multi-media blitz the Government has launched to sell its tax grab Budget.

Canadians are interested in knowing that the creative and media buy agencies, the radio ads, the TV ads, the print ads and assorted brochures and bumf will cost Canadian families a grand total of about \$2.7 million. There can be little doubt that Canadian families would be much happier to see 2,600 new child care spaces created for the children of working families who so desperately need child care. That \$2.7 million would have paid for close to 3,000 child care spaces.

Glossy ads are a poor substitute for action by the Government. It has once again demonstrated it is more concerned with image than with the very real problems facing Canadian children.

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THE BUDGET

REDUCTION OF THE DEFICIT

Mrs. Edna Anderson (Simcoe Centre): Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to give my support to the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson). He showed courage and far-sightedness in addressing our deficit. It was not an easy decision, I am sure, but one that had to be made for the good of our future generations.

The responsibility for the present state of our finances cannot be passed on to successive generations with impunity. We must act now to ensure our children are not burdened with the debts of their forefathers. It is in our interest and their interest to start now rather than later.