

PEARSON INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Mr. Harry Chadwick (Bramalea—Gore—Malton): Mr. Speaker, Etobicoke Council and the Ontario government recently agreed to give Robin Pereira a rebate on her taxes to compensate her for airport noise disturbance.

Now that it has been established that a level of government recognizes airport noise as a problem, others will demand and can reasonably expect to receive compensation.

Recognizing noise as a problem is not new. Provincial governments have been building highway sound barriers for years. But it has been difficult to persuade governments to give airport noise similar attention.

What does this mean for the federal government? It means our government can no longer maintain that noise is a minimal concern and that complaints only represent a handful of citizens who exaggerate the effects of jet airliners flying over their homes.

Ultimately the federal government will be accountable. Others will follow Robin Pereira's lead, and soon provincial and municipal governments will demand compensation of their own.

Isn't it time that we take a serious look at this problem and address it with the attention it deserves?

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FEAST OF LIGHTS

Mr. Gus Mitges (Bruce—Grey): Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to inform all hon. colleagues that the period of October 16 to October 20 marks the celebration of the *Diwali* Festival, the Hindu Feast of Lights.

This is an important time for Hindus in Canada and all around the world, as they commemorate the victory of light over darkness and love over hatred.

By commemorating Rama's defeat of the demon Ravana and the return of light to the world, *Diwali* imbues the Canadian Hindu community with a sense of joy and renewal.

With its vibrant spirituality and traditional wisdom, Hinduism and this particular festival have added much to our heritage. Celebrations like *Diwali* help us better understand and appreciate the common bonds of hu-

manity and of the human experience in which we all share.

I believe I speak for all members of the House when I offer the Canadian Hindu community our sincere wishes for a *Diwali* full of joy and peace. In this spirit, all Canadians join with you today, Mr. Speaker.

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THE ENVIRONMENT

Mr. Brian L. Gardiner (Prince George—Bulkley Valley): Mr. Speaker, the decision by the government to exempt the Alcan Kemano completion project from an environmental assessment is a gross violation of the Prime Minister's 1984 promise to conduct such a review.

A retired Fisheries and Oceans biologist has said that they were under great pressure to justify the Alcan agreement. Another today, has said that fisheries biologists were opposed to the government's proposal. A recent engineering study and now the B.C. ministry of the environment have expressed concerns about the Nechako River Agreement.

The biologist with Fisheries and Oceans says:

This is a classic example of how to abandon a resource. It's a classic example of how to misuse scientists. And it's a classic example of getting public servants to put a good face on a bad decision.

The Minister of the Environment should subject this project to a full review, and the Minister of Justice should launch an investigation into the allegations that public employees were put under political pressure to justify this government's decision to kill a river.

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BILL C-21

Mrs. Edna Anderson (Simcoe Centre): Mr. Speaker, last week members of the United Allied Fishermen and the Allied Workers Union met with the Standing Committee on Labour, Employment and Immigration to express their concern that their unemployment insurance interests were not being protected.

I want the fishermen to know that if the Senate had passed Bill C-21 into law a year ago, they would not be concerned today because fishermen would be collecting their unemployment benefits after 10 weeks of work, whether or not they fish in an area considered to be a