

S. O. 31

The proposal to build institutions for women offenders across Canada provides a unique opportunity to address this problem and encourage women engineers and architects.

My proposal is that women engineers and architects be given special consideration when selecting professional services for the design and construction of these institutions for women.

I urge the Solicitor General to take careful note of this request and act upon it. Otherwise women engineers and architects will not achieve the advances they deserve.

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THE CONSTITUTION

Mr. Len Hopkins (Renfrew—Nipissing—Pembroke): Mr. Speaker, Parliament rises today and will remain in recess until such time as Your Honour calls us back for matters relating to the Constitution, whether it be a referendum or other business dealing with proposals.

I say to every member in this House and to every Canadian that this is a time of reality and a time of coming to grips with yet another challenge in Canadian history. It should be looked at as another challenge because we have had many in the past.

From now until such time as we return, let us consider the examples set by great statesmen like Baldwin and Lafontaine in the years leading up to Confederation, George-Etienne Cartier and Macdonald, the Fathers of Confederation in 1867, and all responsible MPs who have sat in this House over the years.

Let us also remember, as we come down to the constitutional discussions this summer and fall, that common sense, decency, fairness, flexibility, the love of nationhood, and loyalty and dedication to Canada must stand foremost and out front.

That should be the objective of each and every one of us in this Parliament of Canada as we work together to try to blend a good constitutional arrangement for the future of Canada.

THE CONSTITUTION

Mr. Ken James (Sarnia—Lambton): Mr. Speaker, the people of Sarnia—Lambton have always exhibited three basic qualities: optimism, confidence and pride.

In our community, the discussions on the Constitution have been no different. First and foremost, my constituents are proud to be Canadians. The deliberations under the Sarnia—Lambton constituent assembly are a good example.

My constituents are also optimistic that a constitutional deal can be reached. They are confident that in the end, we will pull together as a people and as a country.

Today, on behalf of my constituents, I rise to express thanks to all parties involved, especially to the Prime Minister and the Minister Responsible for Constitutional Affairs. I thank them for their unrelenting resolve and leadership in reaching a negotiated settlement.

To the provinces, aboriginal groups and other participants, I also thank them for their commitment and determination for bringing about meaningful and lasting constitutional change.

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[*Translation*]

TRIBUTE TO HOUSE OF COMMONS PAGES

Mr. Speaker: I would like to make a statement about our pages.

All members will agree that these young people have diligently fulfilled their duty over the year. Their dedication and hard work reflect well on the rest of our Canadian youth. Parliamentary pages are the ambassadors of youth on the Hill and they served it well.

[*English*]

I am sure hon. members will want to join me in thanking the parliamentary pages whose term will end shortly.

As they prepare to leave we extend our best wishes, and perhaps some of them will one day return to the Chamber to sit among us.

Some hon. members: Hear, hear.