

[Translation]

HUMAN RIGHTS

SAN SALVADOR—YESTERDAY'S INCIDENTS—REQUEST THAT GOVERNMENT INTERVENE

Mrs. Lucie Pépin (Outremont): Mr. Speaker, yesterday morning in San Salvador, the army once again ignored the rights and freedoms of the citizens of that country. The army surrounded the building where the farmers' association, the UNTE was meeting, and prevented anyone from getting in or out. Subsequently, students staged protest demonstrations in the towns of San Miguel, Santa Ana and San Salvador. One hundred students were injured and more than 300 were arrested and taken away by the army. Where are they being detained? When will they be released? And why did the army take this action?

Mr. Speaker, I want to ask the Canadian Government to act quickly to find out what is happening in this country and especially to get specific information on what happened yesterday. We must help these people in distress, Mr. Speaker.

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[English]

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

WESTERN CANADA—GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES

Mr. Geoff Wilson (Swift Current—Maple Creek): Mr. Speaker, in July, 1984, at Prince Albert the P.C. Party promised that western Canadian economic policies and strategies would be developed by and for western Canadians in the belief that regional strengths and prosperity ultimately benefit all Canadians.

Since then the Government has abolished the oppressive National Energy Policy, established a lifetime capital gains exemption for farmers and small business, stood solidly behind prairie farmers against unfair foreign export subsidies, developed a western procurement initiative to increase federal government purchasing in the West, established the \$1.2 billion Western Diversification Program to assist in western Canadian economic growth, participated in oil upgraders at Regina and Lloydminster to enable further processing on the Prairies, and established the National Agricultural Biotechnology Initiative in Saskatoon to support the commercialization of ag-biotech products.

All of this, Mr. Speaker, by a Government that listens to western Canadians, that consults with western Canadians, and co-operates with western Canadians in order to respond to the needs, aspirations, and wishes of westerners.

S. O. 21

STATUS OF WOMEN

RECIPIENTS OF PERSONS AWARDS

Ms. Marion Dewar (Hamilton Mountain): Mr. Speaker, the Minister responsible for the Status of Women yesterday announced the 1988 recipients of the Persons Awards. Five outstanding Canadian women will be honoured for their contributions toward improving the status of women in Canada.

[Translation]

The Person Case was won on October 18, 1929, by a group of suffragettes known as "The Famous Five". This group of women from Alberta, headed by Judge Emily Murphy, the first female magistrate in the British Empire, included Louise McKinney, Nellie McClung, Irene Parlby and Henrietta Muir Edwards. Together they fought to have women legally defined as persons, and they succeeded.

[English]

This year's recipients are Nellie Carlson, Jean Carson, Jacqueline Collette, Margaret Hyndman and Marion Powell. They have all been long-time advocates of women's rights, working on native, health, economic, and legal issues which affect women. I hope all Canadians share the pride of our Party in the contributions these women have made to our society.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

RELATIONS BETWEEN CANADA AND PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

Mr. Alan Redway (York East): Mr. Speaker, as you know, today marks another historic step in the growing, warm relationship between Canada and the People's Republic of China, a relationship which began in the days of the Progressive Conservative Government of John Diefenbaker.

An official delegation of senior leaders of the China YMCA is with us in the House today and will soon be visiting Canadian YMCAs in Toronto, Montreal, and Vancouver, as well as here in Ottawa. During their visit to Canada they will announce the establishment of the China-Canada YMCA Bethune Scholarship Program.

This visit is an historic occasion for the YMCA in Canada and for all Canadians. On our behalf I wish to welcome the delegation and to thank you, Mr. Speaker, for hosting a luncheon today for the China YMCA delegation.