

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Wednesday, April 29, 1992

The House met at 2 p.m.

Prayers

STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S. O. 31

[*English*]

SYRIAN JEWS

Mr. Bill Attewell (Markham—Whitchurch—Stouffville): Mr. Speaker, over the past 10 days the world has heard incredibly good news about the Syrian-Jewish community.

On April 19 Syrian officials finally released the Swed brothers who had been in prison since 1987 without a fair trial. I was elated to hear the news that Selim and Eli Swed were released on Passover, a celebration of freedom for the Jewish people.

Then on Monday, April 27, there was welcome news that Syria will end travel and personal and real estate property restrictions on Jews.

As chairman of the Canadian Parliamentary Friendship Group for Syrian Jewry, I hope these developments signify the resolve of the Syrian government to end all discriminatory abuses of Syrian Jews.

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NATIONAL UNITY RALLY

Mr. Jim Jordan (Leeds—Grenville): Mr. Speaker, later today about two dozen busloads of constituents from my riding will be making a trip to Parliament Hill as an expression of support for a united Canada.

The idea for this rally originated with Diane Manion, a Brockville high school teacher, who, along with some of her colleagues and friends, decided to visit the seat of the nation's government.

This rally which started rather small has grown dramatically, illustrating that ordinary Canadians are concerned about Canada's future and are suggesting by their

trip to the Parliament Buildings that Canadians do indeed want to break the silence. They hope all other Canadian communities will express themselves in this or some similar way.

We should no longer take Canada for granted. The message is clear from my community. We are one united Canada.

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[*Translation*]

QUEBEC POISON CONTROL CENTRE

Mr. Marcel R. Tremblay (Québec—Est): Mr. Speaker, I welcome this opportunity to announce that the Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs is actively involved in a feasibility study on the development of a national data bank for use by poison control centres. A national data bank that would be available to provincial poison control centres would be an essential factor in consumer protection, especially where children are concerned.

When an accident occurs, poison control centres would be able to provide quick and specific advice to consumers and health professionals on what should be done and what kind of treatment should be given or where the victim could receive appropriate care.

I would also like to commend the Quebec Poison Control Centre for developing the TOXIN software. Users of the software will have rapid access to vast amounts of data on the composition of many different chemical products (drugs, pesticides and other toxic substances) that would be included in the Canadian data bank for poison control information. This work represents a major contribution to the health and safety of all Canadians.

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[*English*]

FOREIGN DOMESTIC WORKERS

Mr. Dan Heap (Trinity—Spadina): Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Employment and Immigration began his new live-in caregiver program on April 27 which continues a