

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Wednesday, March 29, 1995

The House met at 2 p.m.

Prayers

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

[*English*]

GENERIC DRUGS

Mr. Jim Jordan (Leeds—Grenville, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, residents of my riding of Leeds—Grenville have expressed grave concern about skyrocketing health costs.

Approximately 40 people from the community of Merrickville have signed a letter to me indicating their support for an increased availability of generic drugs as one way of reducing health care costs.

It has been estimated that Canadians now have 36 per cent of their prescriptions filled with generic drugs. On average, generic drugs are 40 to 50 per cent less expensive. This saving is achieved without compromising the quality of health care.

The greatest concern of seniors in today's economy is that they will not be able to afford proper health care when they get sick.

Citizens of my riding are asking the drug manufacturers to respond to dwindling resources in health care by putting more prescribed drugs on the generic drug list.

* * *

[*Translation*]

CITY OF HULL

Mrs. Suzanne Tremblay (Rimouski—Témiscouata, BQ): Mr. Speaker, yesterday, when Marcel Beaudry, chairman of the National Capital Commission, appeared before the Standing Committee on Canadian Heritage, I made some exaggerated comments about the City of Hull to make the point to Mr. Beaudry that the NCC invariably passes over Hull in favour of Ottawa in the choices it makes.

Taken out of context, my remarks offended the people of Hull. I would like to apologize to them in this House. It really was not my intention to hurt anyone.

The tendency to inflated language, which sometimes afflicts those involved in politics, surfaced in my attempts to ensure that Mr. Beaudry, who makes no distinction between a Liberal Party fundraising dinner and a committee for a no vote fundraising dinner, really understood my explanation.

To the people of Hull, I again offer my most sincere apologies.

* * *

[*English*]

BOB'S BIRTHDAY

Mr. Jim Hart (Okanagan—Similkameen—Merritt, Ref.): Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the constituents of Okanagan—Similkameen—Merritt to congratulate film makers Alison Snowden and David Fine for winning an Oscar at the Academy Awards on Monday night for their film "Bob's Birthday". Their success demonstrates that Canadian film projects can compete effectively in the global marketplace.

Reform members believe it is high time for the federal government to get out of the way and allow Canadian entrepreneurs to take their place as the producers of Canadian film projects.

Canada has proven that we can win Oscars. Let us do it without federal funding. Canadian taxpayers want to know why the Liberals continue to spend dollars to make films. Our film industry can stand on its own two feet and should be supported by the investment from Canadian entrepreneurs, not government subsidies.

This side of the House wants to congratulate "Bob's Birthday" for proving once again that Canadian film productions can prosper in a global marketplace.

* * *

GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY

Mrs. Eleni Bakopanos (Saint-Denis, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, this past weekend a sea of Greek, Canadian and Quebec flags flooded my riding of Saint-Denis as over 50,000 Canadians of Greek origin celebrated Greek Independence Day.

It was a tremendous turnout with people from every generation dressed in national costume in celebration of their rich