

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): It being one o'clock, I do now leave the chair until two o'clock this day.

At 1.01 p.m. the House took recess.

AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 2 p.m.

STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S.O.31

[*Translation*]

HEALTH SERVICES

REQUEST FOR CREATION OF SENATE COMMITTEE

Mr. Guy St-Julien (Abitibi): Mr. Speaker, on May 2, Senator Paul David made a speech in the Canadian Senate in which he roundly criticized this country's health care system and even suggested a substantial increase in salaries and better working conditions for hospital nursing staff.

Dr. David stated that major capital investment was critical to meeting the needs of patients.

Canada's health care system is called the best in the world.

Mr. Speaker, I agree with Dr. David that a committee of the Senate should be appointed to review the advantages and the shortcomings of the system with the provinces, the agencies concerned and the public and propose solutions.

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[*English*]

THE ENVIRONMENT

NORTHERN OIL AND GAS DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Jack Iyerak Anawak (Nunatsiak): Mr. Speaker, today the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) meets with President Bush. Northerners and concerned Canadians hope that on his agenda for discussion with the President is the issue of proposed oil and gas development in Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

S. O. 31

This development is opposed by the Canadian Government, the Governments of the Yukon and the Northwest Territories, and the aboriginal people in the Yukon and the Northwest Territories. The environmental consequences of development in the refuge could be devastating to northern aboriginal peoples.

The Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society has written several letters to the Prime Minister urging him to raise directly with the President Canada's opposition to this proposed development.

The refuge provides important habitat for musk-oxen, grizzly and polar bears, wolves and migrating snow geese. It is also the principal calving grounds for the porcupine caribou herd, which is the main food source for about 7,000 aboriginal people in Alaska, the Yukon and the Northwest Territories.

President Bush has said he supports development. The U.S. Congress has yet to make a decision on this issue.

The Prime Minister should remind the President that a 1987 agreement signed by the U.S. Secretary of the Interior and the Canadian Minister of the Environment requires both countries to conserve the herd and its habitat and to avoid or minimize activities that would disrupt the herd.

The Prime Minister must tell the President directly that Canadians and northerners will not tolerate a violation of this agreement, and that they do not want oil and gas development in this refuge.

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[*Translation*]

SPACE AGENCY

LOCATION OF MONTREAL SOUTH SHORE

Mrs. Pierette Venne (Saint-Hubert): Mr. Speaker, the people of the riding of Saint-Hubert proudly welcome the Canadian Space Agency. The entire South Shore of Montreal took part in the event last Tuesday.

We are convinced that Space Agency staff will appreciate the quality of life in the riding of Saint-Hubert and the entire Monteregian area, as well as the warmth of its people.

We were successful in our endeavour, thanks to an unprecedented consensus among all federal, provincial and municipal elected representatives on the South Shore.