

spending is unjustified and ask that appropriate action be taken so that it is not incurred again by the federal government.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Kilger): It being 1.05 p.m., I do now leave the chair until 2 p.m., pursuant to Standing Order 24(2).

(The House recessed at 1.05 p.m.)

AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 2 p.m.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

[English]

CHINESE NEW YEAR

Mrs. Anna Terrana (Vancouver East): Mr. Speaker, today we celebrate Chinese New Year, a time to ensure good fortune for the future.

The year of the dog corresponds to year 4692 of the ancient Chinese lunar calendar which counts back to the first Emperor Huang. The year of the dog will be a prosperous year, provided harmony is maintained and conflict is avoided.

On his deathbed Buddha summoned all animals to visit him. Only 12 animals answered his plea. The dog was the 11th animal to visit, thus becoming one of the 12 animals to which Buddha assigned a year in which to rule as a reward.

My constituency of Vancouver East has a high percentage of people of Chinese origin. These people came as immigrants and have contributed significantly to the growth of this country. Through multiculturalism they have been able to retain their traditions and culture and to share them with all of us.

These days in Vancouver the Chinese community is celebrating in style. I would like to wish all of the Canadians of Chinese origin and all Chinese people a very happy New Year.

I am sure my colleagues want to join me in wishing all of them gung hey fat choy or sen nin fye lock.

[Translation]

PAVILLON D'ÉDUCATION COMMUNAUTAIRE

Mr. Réal Ménard (Hochelaga—Maisonneuve): Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to a community organization in my constituency, known as the Pavillon d'éducation communautaire.

The PEC, whose members and users are now present in the gallery, has been in existence for 20 years.

From the very beginning, this organization has focused its action on public education.

Public education is that great instrument by which we teach people that they themselves can bring the changes needed to create a more equitable and compassionate society.

The PEC is the place where several hundreds of my fellow citizens learned about commitment and fulfilment.

I want all volunteers, the board of directors and the management of the PEC to know that their daily efforts and sustained commitment to Hochelaga—Maisonneuve have helped to make their community a dynamic place to live. On behalf of my fellow citizens, I want to tell them today how very grateful we are for their excellent work.

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[English]

CIGARETTE TAXES

Mr. Jake E. Hoepfner (Lisgar—Marquette): Mr. Speaker, I rise in the House to inform hon. members my constituents are furious that the Prime Minister would ignore the pleadings of eight provincial premiers not to reduce taxes on cigarettes and would allow Canadian taxpayers to be held hostage.

The one-half billion dollars lost by this tax reduction could be better spent on health care, education and retraining for the unemployed.

Furthermore, Manitoba residents are totally outraged that the border crossings where smuggling is a problem will now be lit up 24 hours a day. This is sending a clear message to smugglers to avoid those border crossings.

I challenge the 12 Liberal MPs from Manitoba to publicly acknowledge in the House of Commons that they have offered no resistance to this government initiative that puts the health of Manitobans at risk.

Manitobans have made it abundantly clear to me they are prepared to take action to prevent this country from going up in smoke.