

CHARACTERS INCORPORATED

Mr. J. W. Bud Bird (Fredericton—York—Sunbury): Mr. Speaker, in New Brunswick we have many wonderful ways to express our feelings for our province and our country. One of the most inspiring and entertaining expressions is being delivered these days by a group of young performers called Characters Incorporated.

This singing and dancing group of students from high school and university classrooms in Fredericton has for the past years been proclaiming, in both official languages, the joys of being Canadians. They are truly *les jeunes ambassadeurs du Nouveau-Brunswick*.

Characters Incorporated attained national stature when they stole the show at the 1989 Jeux Canada Games in Saskatoon. This year, in fact this month, they embark on the international stage representing Canada in Czechoslovakia and in Holland. In July they will perform at Walt Disney World in Florida. I ask this House to wish them well in the weeks ahead, and before this year is over I hope to recruit the help of many honourable colleagues to bring Characters Incorporated to Ottawa where we all may witness their moving expressions of pride, joy and love for our great nation.

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ENVIRONMENT WEEK

Mr. Rex Crawford (Kent): Mr. Speaker, this week is Environment Week. During the past year, we watched public concerns and demands for action escalate. When we look to the government for leadership on environmental legislation, we are told to wait.

The government has stated over and over again that it will show leadership on the environment, but Canada is far behind other countries. When will this government focus on Canada's environment?

Canada needs to take firm action on the clean up of the Great Lakes and toxic waste dump sites, air and water quality and chemical spills. Its lack of regulation and enforcement, not cost, has been the major reason for these environmental problems.

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The environment embodies many issues such as public health and safety. The threat is real. People are demanding action.

We need strong federal regulations, national standards and a change of focus now. Previous legislation has been reactive. Canada must now adopt a proactive environmental policy. As the theme of Environment Week states: "It's in our hands."

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[Translation]

ENVIRONMENT WEEK

Mr. Guy Saint-Julien (Abitibi): Mr. Speaker, Canadian Environment Week started yesterday, a reminder that more than ever before, the environment is our business. This year, the emphasis is on increasing public awareness of everyone's ability to contribute, in the course of their daily lives, towards improving the environment. Considering the astronomical quantities of waste we throw in the garbage and down the drain, there is certainly room for improvement.

In my riding, Louise Boyer of the Amos Standing Committee on Environmental Protection is one of those people who stopped to think how their way of life was aggravating environmental problems, and who are now trying to do something about it. This week, her project will be to show the people of Amos how to separate their garbage into vegetable waste and dry matter, and thus add composting to the recycling operations of Contrex, a local company.

Mr. Speaker, we must realize that the environment is an integral part of our lives and that we are each responsible for protecting that environment.

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[English]

FINANCE

Mr. Steven W. Langdon (Essex—Windsor): Mr. Speaker, once again the Mulroney government has stalled the long promised financial reform legislation; this time until fall or more likely next year.

This is the same government that gave the giant U.S. corporation, American Express, licence to become a bank in Canada and do the kind of business our own