

S. O. 31

SITTING SUSPENDED

Mr. Danis: Mr. Speaker, I think you will find unanimous consent of the House to suspend the sitting until eleven o'clock.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Is there agreement?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): The House will stand suspended until eleven o'clock.

The sitting of the House was suspended at 10.29 a.m.

SITTING RESUMED

The House resumed at 11 a.m.

STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S. O. 31

[English]

CFB SUMMERSIDE

Ms. Catherine Callbeck (Malpeque): Mr. Speaker, today is the first anniversary of the government's arbitrary decision to close CFB Summerside. Three hundred and sixty-five days have passed since the residents of Summerside and surrounding area were shocked by this announcement. They were shocked that this government made a decision of this magnitude without consultation and without any plan for the future.

A year later the people of this area are still shocked. They are shocked that there still has been no firm federal commitment of jobs. What is really shocking is this government's inability to plan ahead. For a whole year the economy of Summerside and area has suffered because of this government's decision.

Yet there are many Islanders, and many people working to save the base. I commend each and every one of those people and praise them for their dedication.

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NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK

Mr. Willie Littlechild (Wetaskiwin): Mr. Speaker, Canada's volunteer force is one of the largest and strongest in the world. Countless numbers of men and women have dedicated their time, often without thanks,

to causes and programs that could not exist without their generosity.

This week has been set aside exclusively to pay tribute to those citizens of our nation who have made a difference. They have exercised fully their citizenship by their actions and have sustained Canada's reputation as a caring and compassionate country.

I am asking that we as members of this House do something to encourage and support voluntary action as a vital and positive expression of our Canadian way of life.

Some 13 million Canadians from all walks of life and from every cultural background make volunteering an integral part of their lifestyle. Working as individuals or through organized groups like the Ponoka Wildrose Volunteer Week Committee, volunteers are the vital links that hold our society together. It is up to us to make sure that everyone around us is aware of National Volunteer Week.

April 22 to 28 may be the official week to recognize volunteers, but it is only the beginning. Our scores of volunteers are a valuable resource to be encouraged and cherished every day.

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PEARSON INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Mr. Sergio Marchi (York West): Mr. Speaker, Transport Canada's refusal to intervene in the contract talks between the limousine drivers at Pearson International Airport and the owner of Aaroport, Air Cab, and McIntosh limousines has not only hurt the travelling public through a work stoppage but also the livelihood of over 150 families.

The drivers' concerns are lower driver profits, poor working facilities, refusing drivers from attending co-ordination group meetings and Transport Canada's poor performance refusing illegal scoopers from taking unlawful fares. These are legitimate bread and butter issues affecting the lives and families of each of these drivers and are most deserving of being immediately addressed by this government.

I call upon the Minister of Transport to help mediate this dispute immediately, and to issue temporary permits to the drivers during these negotiations so that their loss of income will not be continued for another two months.