

THE FAMILY

Mr. Brian O'Kurley (Elk Island): Mr. Speaker, one of the most important elements in our Canadian society is the family. In recent years the Government of Canada has clearly demonstrated its commitment to the family unit in this country. This has been done through adjustments to the child tax credit and through various initiatives to address family violence. More work, however, must be done not only by governments but also by family organizations and by society at large.

One such family oriented group is called "Kids First". Kids First is a national organization of parents who raise their children at home. Formed in Calgary in 1986, its thousands of members right across Canada are working hard to ensure fairness in our tax laws. Kids First is fighting for a fair deal for parents who choose to care for their children at home. Let us all support Kids First.

Let us work together for a better future for our children. Let us all work together for a better Canada.

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ROBERTA BONDAR

Mr. Maurice Foster (Algoma): Mr. Speaker, on January 22, 1992 Dr. Roberta Bondar from Sault Ste. Marie became the first Canadian woman astronaut to travel into space. This flight culminates eight years of training and preparation by Dr. Bondar who is a medical doctor and a neurologist.

During the eight-day flight she carried out a series of difficult scientific experiments involving more than 200 ground based scientists from 16 countries including Canada.

Dr. Bondar said before she blasted off into space that soon she would be granted the privilege and honour of touching the earth with her eyes, her heart, her mind, and her soul. She carried out her task in space with admirable courage and ability.

It is not only the people of Sault Ste. Marie who are proud of Roberta Bondar. Every Canadian admires her tremendous efforts for Canada and the world. I am sure that every member of the House of Commons joins me today in congratulating her on her tremendous achievements for mankind by this mission.

Oral Questions

Some hon. members: Hear, hear.

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THE LATE GED BALDWIN

Mr. Albert Cooper (Peace River): Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my condolences to the family members and friends of Ged Baldwin, a former member of Parliament for Peace River who passed away on December 16.

Ged Baldwin first came to this place in 1958. Over all he won eight consecutive elections. He was a good constituency man, easily and capably relating to the diverse challenges that a large and remote riding presents.

He was also a great parliamentarian and will be remembered as the father of Canada's Freedom of Information Act. His expertise in parliamentary procedure made him an invaluable member of Mr. Diefenbaker's government.

An author, a lawyer, a farmer, a decorated World War II veteran, a civil libertarian, a pursuer of world peace, Ged Baldwin did it all. He was awarded the Order of Canada and numerous other honours and tributes befitting a statesman.

I wish to express my personal condolences to Beulah, Gerald, Bruce, Greg, Pat, Barbara, and Gwennyth, the grandchildren and the great-grandchildren. I say to them that a member of Parliament can have no finer example to emulate than Ged Baldwin.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

• (1420)

[English]

THE ECONOMY

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I would like to welcome you and all members of this House back to this session.

In the past six weeks we all went to our ridings and got a very clear message from Canadians. They want to make Canada work again.

Some hon. members: Hear, hear.