

LABOUR FORCE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

Mr. Doug Fee (Red Deer): Mr. Speaker, a year ago today the Minister of Employment and Immigration tabled a Labour Force Development Strategy, the government's plan to ensure that Canadians have the best labour market adjustment programs in the world.

Building on the success of the Canadian Jobs Strategy, the Labour Force Development Strategy promotes a thoroughly national effort to improve Canadians' skills and a means by which their full potential can be realized.

Although essential to our future, this strategy will not just happen. It cannot be without the passage of Bill C-21. Without Bill C-21 the strategy is an idle thing. With Bill C-21, it is a rational plan for the 1990s, an essential part of our future prosperity.

I urge all members of the House and those in the other place to support the passage of Bill C-21.

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EASTERN EUROPE

Ms. Albina Guarnieri (Mississauga East): Mr. Speaker, the success of the recent elections in eastern Europe have shown that even those who have never been exposed to participatory democracy are still eager to exercise their aspirations and dreams in a peaceful and open way. The democratic movement, which began in Poland and Hungary and which has spread throughout Eastern Europe, will soon be joined by people in the Republic of Croatia.

On April 22 and 23, Croatians will be going to the polls to participate in their first multi-party elections in over 40 years. These elections will allow the more than 20 new political organizations, representing a wide variety of political expression, to compete directly with the Communist party.

It is important that western enthusiasm and support for political change in eastern Europe be also extended to the struggle of the many communities and peoples in Yugoslavia to throw off the chains of oppression and become full partners in the democratic political process.

I am confident that all members of the House will join me in welcoming these changes in the Croatia Parlia-

ment and wish them a peaceful and successful transition from a one-party state into a multi-party democracy.

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NATIONAL CITIZENSHIP WEEK

Mr. Ronald J. Duhamel (St. Boniface): Mr. Speaker, National Citizenship Week will be celebrated everywhere in Canada during the week of April 15 to April 21.

It is a wonderful opportunity for every Canadian in this country, young and less young, whether we live in the Atlantic provinces, central Canada, the great north or the western provinces, and whether we come from aboriginal, French, English, other new Canadian ancestry or combinations of such, to examine this great gift which has been given to us: our country Canada and our Canadian citizenship.

This is an appropriate time for each of us to stand up and to oppose vigorously all forms of racism and bigotry, and all statements and actions which denigrate any fellow Canadian.

During the last few months T-shirts, pins, calendars and reward posters with inappropriate and insensitive slogans, quite apart from linguistic statements and activities showing intolerance, in both Quebec and in other parts of Canada have contributed significantly to the weakening of the Canadian fabric, including our qualities of generosity and tolerance.

Let us stand up for Canada for what it has become as a country and what it can be: a leader among nations.

[Translation]

Let us all be proud of our country and work together to make it a symbol of tolerance and generosity.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[Translation]

NATIONAL UNITY

Hon. Herb Gray (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I wish to ask the Prime Minister a question.

At a time when the country is experiencing great tension and division, I think it is the role and duty of all members of the government without exception to make statements encouraging dialogue and understanding among all Canadians in all regions. Therefore I ask the