

PARLIAMENTARY FORUM ON GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. A. H. Harry Brightwell (Perth—Wellington—Waterloo): Mr. Speaker, the Parliamentary Forum on Global Climate Change will begin here on Monday, April 23. This is a unique effort of eight standing committees of this House. For the first time committees have joined together to organize a group of expert witnesses who can give a rounded view on a problem of common interest. The forum will form part of a study of the environmental aspects of each committee's field of interest.

The eight organizing committees are delighted that you, Mr. Speaker, with your well-known interest in the environment, will be the opening speaker of the plenary session to begin at 10.30 on Monday, April 23.

As this forum progresses with joint meetings of the participating committees, which will each have chosen a major speaker, I believe parliamentarians and the public will become much better informed with a balanced view on climate change.

Our special proceedings will undoubtedly become excellent reference material on this topic.

I want to thank the many people on all sides of this House who have worked to make this Parliamentary Forum on Global Climate Change a reality.

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LITHUANIA

Mr. Jesse Flis (Parkdale—High Park): Mr. Speaker, I have hundreds of letters here from my constituents urging the Government of Canada to demonstrate support for the Lithuanian people by recognizing the newly-elected government of the Republic of Lithuania. I will ask a page to deliver these to the Secretary of State for External Affairs directly.

Tonight, the Baltic Federation in Canada in conjunction with a committee of parliamentarians is holding its eighteenth annual Baltic evening. This event is a very special event as, historically, the Baltic peoples have held a very special place in the hearts of Canadians.

Tonight's Baltic evening, however, will be unprecedented in its historic significance since, among the guests, we will have the honour of hosting the first

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democratically elected Vice-President of the Republic of Lithuania in fifty years, Professor Bronius Kuzmickas.

On behalf of all Canadians to whom democracy is fundamental and human rights are non-negotiable, I say to Mr. Kuzmickas whom I had the pleasure of meeting in Lithuania: Welcome to Canada. We are very proud to have you on Canadian soil.

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[Translation]

THE ENVIRONMENT

Mr. Gabriel Desjardins (Témiscamingue): Mr. Speaker, yesterday the U.S. Senate witnessed an historic vote when the vast majority of its members passed a new clean air bill.

The bill concentrates on three specific areas: urban pollution, toxic emissions and acid rain. More specifically, I may say that an annual reduction of ten million tons in sulphur dioxide emissions meets the expectations of and is a response to pressure by the Canadian government on U.S. authorities. All Canadians have reason to rejoice, now that our U.S. neighbours have taken this giant step to protect the environment.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to draw the attention of the House to the major contribution made by Senator George Mitchell, who has always been Canada's staunchest ally in our fight against acid rain. The door is now wide open for negotiations on a bilateral agreement on acid rain, a plan dear to the heart of the Prime Minister of Canada.

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[English]

CLEAN AIR ACT

Mr. Stan Darling (Parry Sound—Muskoka): Mr. Speaker, today I am sure all members of the House will want to join me in congratulating the United States Senate in passing the Clean Air Act last evening by a vote of 89 to 11.

Some hon. members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Darling: I would like to commend Senator George Mitchell, the U.S. senate majority House leader, for guiding through the legislation and for fulfilling his