

This is the second time the courts have ruled against the government on this project. The minister still has not announced an independent panel to study the environmental impacts of the Rafferty-Alameda dams. He has eight more days to do so.

When he announces the panel, the minister should also revoke Saskatchewan's licence and stop construction on the dam. The Devine government in Saskatchewan continues to build a dam 24 hours a day, weather permitting, and has now completed some 16 per cent of the project.

What will happen if the panel finds the project to be environmentally unsound? Will the Minister of the Environment travel to Saskatchewan and tear down the dam? I doubt it.

Surely the minister can see how ludicrous is his situation. The people of Saskatchewan and Manitoba care about their environment and will not give up until the minister can prove, without a doubt, that the project is sound. Two courts have ruled against the minister. Why does he not use this opportunity to get it right?

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#### UKRAINE

**Mr. Rey Pagtakhan (Winnipeg North):** Mr. Speaker, today marks the seventy-first anniversary of a very special event in Ukraine, the creation of a united Ukrainian National Republic. However, the decades following that event were tragic ones.

But today we are witnessing an unprecedented revival of independence in Ukraine. So it is a particularly fitting time for everyone to celebrate with special optimism one of the great moments in the history of that country.

To commemorate that event, Ukrainians formed a human chain between Lviv and Kiev. Also yesterday, Canadians of Ukrainian origin formed a similarly symbolic human link by the eternal flame on Parliament Hill to reaffirm their quest for independence for their country of birth and heritage.

Today I call on the Prime Minister and his government to commemorate this special Ukrainian day by taking bold and determined steps to sustain the progress of freedom in Ukraine. We in Parliament shall help keep

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the flame of that great national event forever burning in the hearts and minds of all freedom loving Canadians.

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#### MEECH LAKE ACCORD

**Mr. Bill Casey (Cumberland—Colchester):** Mr. Speaker, even though the wording of the Meech Lake Accord states that the words "distinct society" do not give the government of the Province of Quebec additional authority, these words still concern many Canadians. In fact many areas and sectors of Canada already have distinct needs and solutions designed exclusively for their own regions.

For example, in Atlantic Canada we need a distinct economic development agency and we have it, ACOA. In western Canada, their needs are different and they have a distinct program called the Western Diversification Fund. We call for distinct approaches to help the prairie provinces' wheat producers and another for the Atlantic fishery. We have a distinct program for freight transportation in Atlantic Canada, and on and on.

My point is that all regions of Canada already have distinct solutions to meet their needs and the words in the Meech Lake Accord do not change the situation for any part of Canada. I respectfully urge those dissenting provincial premiers to actively make every effort to resolve their concerns and pass the Meech Lake amendment as part of our Constitution.

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#### FIREARMS

**Mr. John Harvard (Winnipeg St. James):** Mr. Speaker, a young woman was murdered in my constituency last week. There was no apparent motive behind the killing; she was just gunned down. The suspect in the case has been described as depressed and suicidal.

This raises serious questions about the way firearms acquisition certificates are issued to purchasers of restricted weapons in Canada. When a person applies for a firearms acquisition certificate, he is asked whether he has had a mental disorder. If he replies "no", there is no way the police can confirm it. They have no right to demand to see his medical records.

The process needs fixing. Police should not be sent snooping into medical records but persons wanting handguns and semi-automatics should be required to