

S.O. 21
HEALTH

ALS DISEASE—APPEAL FOR RESEARCH FUNDS

Mr. W. Paul McCrossan (York-Scarborough): Mr. Speaker, tomorrow, Friday, June 6, is National Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis flower day. This fatal disease, often known as Lou Gerhrig's disease, still has not had its causes determined. However, medical research is now focusing on whether the disease is a viral one or is of toxic origin similar to lead poisoning.

ALS is a degenerative disease of the nervous system which most frequently strikes men over the age of 30, often beginning with mere weakness in a hand, arm, or leg, and progressing as nerve cells supplying the muscles are lost. For this reason, ALS is sometimes referred to as "motor neuron disease".

In the next two days a blue cornflower, similar to the one I am wearing, will be distributed in shopping malls across the country to those who make a donation to the ALS Fund. I encourage all Canadians to help with donations which will be used to conduct research into the causes of this deadly disease.

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LABOUR RELATIONS

EDMONTON MEATPACKING PLANT DISPUTE

Ms. Sheila Capps (Hamilton East): I rise to ask our Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) to intervene directly with his good and great friend and former candidate for the Progressive Conservative leadership, Mr. Peter Pocklington, in the bitter and escalating dispute with his employees at the Gainers meatpacking plant in Edmonton. It is quite clear that Mr. Pocklington refuses to recognize the rights of his employees who are only seeking parity with other meatpacking workers in companies such as Canada Packers.

Given the great and good relationship between the Prime Minister and Mr. Pocklington, and the fact that Mr. Pocklington withdrew from the leadership race to throw his support behind the Prime Minister, and given the Prime Minister's own alleged record in labour management relations, surely he can phone his friend, Mr. Pocklington, and ask him to back off on this bitter and escalating dispute so that employees of his company can have what is their just due, that is, parity with other workers, and we can back off this escalating history of labour disputes in relation to Mr. Pocklington.

[Translation]

WOMEN

POSITION OF WOMEN IN BUSINESS WORLD

Mr. Guy St-Julien (Abitibi): Mr. Speaker, the position held by women in the business world and the Government of Canada is becoming every day more a significant fact of life.

During the ceremony held to pay tribute to the Business Woman of the Year in Abitibi, Mrs. Pierrette Corriveau, Executive Director of *La Vitrierie Mont-Laurier* was chosen as the business woman of the year in the Amos area, and Mrs. Jacqueline Tinor, owner of *Le Nettoyeur Royal* was similarly honoured for the Val-d'Or area.

Mr. Speaker, these business women are stimulating examples for our community and it is essential to emphasize the contribution of women of such caliber, because there is no difference between businessmen and businesswomen as far as the success of their respective businesses is concerned.

Mr. Speaker, the same can be said about the offices of Ottawa Cabinet Ministers. We have very competent women Chiefs of Staffs, like Mrs. Louise Bertrand, from the Secretary of State of Canada.

Mr. Speaker, I could continue for hours providing other examples of such value.

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● (1405)

[English]

LABOUR RELATIONS

SITUATION IN ALBERTA

Mr. Rod Murphy (Churchill): Mr. Speaker, I also have a statement with regard to the labour situation in Alberta. I hope it will be a less partisan one.

Labour-management relations in the Province of Alberta are reaching crisis proportions. I feel great regret when I see the anti-union, anti-worker stance that has been taken by the Government in that province. I urge the Government to prevail upon its provincial counter-part in Alberta to rescind the regressive labour legislation and to introduce legislation that will protect workers from ruthless labour practices.

A recent example of the labour climate in Alberta occurred when 160 members of the RCMP appeared at a picket-line outside a struck plant in Fort McMurray on provincial election day. I have written to the Solicitor General (Mr. Beatty) requesting an investigation into the actions of the RCMP on that day in terms of expense, wisdom, and necessity of this action. With no obvious provocation, why would the Alberta Attorney General bring in 160 policemen, complete with dogs and riot gear? Workers must have confidence that those who write the laws, the laws themselves, and the enforcement of law—