

*S. O. 31*

I am sure the House will join with me in wishing members of the Canadian Physiotherapy Association the best of luck during National Physiotherapy Week.

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**THE LUBICON**

**Ms. Ethel Blondin-Andrew (Western Arctic):** Mr. Speaker, after more than 50 years the human rights of the Lubicon people remain at stake and continue to be abused. Negotiations between the Lubicon people and the federal government have not taken place since 1989. This government has clearly reneged on its fiduciary responsibility.

The actions taken by this government on the Lubicon land claim reinforces this government's well-used technique of pitting one group of aboriginal people against another.

In the case of the Lubicon, the federal government funded splinter groups to undermine Lubicon progress and diminish band membership. It is the same story on the issue of extinguishment. This government's policies have split ties of friendship and the relationships of aboriginal families and their communities. There have been enough reports, studies, and bureaucracy, and enough take it or leave it tactics have been put forward by this government.

The Lubicon issue has now become a human rights issue. The United Nations Human Rights Committee has stated that the Canadian government's treatment of the Lubicon threatens their way of life and culture and constitutes a violation of article 27 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

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**HOUSE OF COMMONS**

**Mr. J. W. Bud Bird (Fredericton—York—Sunbury):** Mr. Speaker, one of the main continuing sources of public cynicism about members of Parliament arises from a lack of public confidence in the over-all compensation programs which pertain to those who serve in this House.

This comes not only from a perception that pension plans are too generous but also from a misunderstanding of salary and expense provisions.

Simply put, the Canadian public has not been well informed or consulted over Parliament's long history about the fundamental compensation structure by which members of this Parliament are rewarded and reimbursed for their work here.

The time is long overdue for a comprehensive review of all aspects of that program. It should be conducted on an independent professional basis by one or more of the most qualified consultants in the country. It should start with the recognition of the qualifications and capabilities that are required to be an effective MP and should include analysis and comparison with respect to equivalent job descriptions in industry and other professions.

Its recommendations should be based on the standards of professionalism that Canadians would always want at work in this Chamber.

With a general election and a new Parliament now clearly in sight, this is an ideal time to commission such a total compensation review.

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**THE MEMBER FOR HALTON—PEEL**

**Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa—Vanier):** Mr. Speaker, the member for Halton—Peel was elected chairman of the official languages committee on February 20, 1992. Two meetings were called that year, both at my request and insistence.

Under former chairpersons between May 2, 1990 and May 2, 1991 the committee met 26 times, some 13 times more than under the present standing committee chairmanship of the member for Halton—Peel.

Given his poor record of duty as chairperson it is no wonder that he found time to write in his latest book that half of the current parliamentary committees should be scrapped. His book, *Garth! Just what the hell is going on in Ottawa*, is his testimony to inefficiency and a complete lack of interest.

Maybe the member for Halton—Peel should take time out from his leadership campaign and do the job he was sent here to do by his constituents in the first place.

In this country official languages are no laughing matter. The Prime Minister should fire this uninterested member and reinstate a working standing committee with government members interested in the subject.