

insured loan of \$600,000 provided by CMHC required to construct this complex.

This initiative is another strong indication of our government's commitment to assist the elderly in our society in maintaining a decent standard of living. I commend the Minister of State for Housing for his support in making this project a reality.

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[*Translation*]

THE CONSTITUTION

Mr. Gilles Rocheleau (Hull—Aylmer): Madam Speaker, with only a few days to go until June 23, 1990, by which date the Meech Lake Accord should be ratified—a date that is also an important occasion for the future of my political party—I would like to congratulate all those who said a forthright yes to Quebec and to its expected return to the constitutional table.

The support of all three parties in this House and the unconditional support of seven Premiers in English Canada, including Peterson, Vander Zalm and Getty who represent the provinces with the largest population, is very significant, and I find this very heartening.

A nation cannot evolve unless its leaders are determined to see it evolve, and I hope that in future constitutional discussions we will be able to apply the principles of honesty, integrity and openness on behalf of the unity of our country.

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[*English*]

LITERACY VOLUNTEER AWARDS

Mrs. Pauline Browes (Parliamentary Secretary to Secretary of State of Canada and Minister of State (Multiculturalism and Citizenship)): Madam Speaker, at the opening of the Canadian Library Association's annual convention yesterday, I had the opportunity of announcing on behalf of the Government of Canada the establishment of Canada's Literacy Volunteer Awards.

The awards program will work in partnership with the Canadian Library Association, the Canadian Association of Public Libraries, the Canadian Library Trustees Association, the Association for the Advancement of Science

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and Technique of Documentation, the National Literacy Secretariat, and the members of Parliament.

Canada's Literacy Volunteer Awards will recognize individuals and organizations in our community who have made an outstanding contribution to the promotion of literacy. We encourage more Canadians to become involved in the fight against illiteracy.

On behalf of the Secretary of State I want to thank the organizations which have worked with us on the creation of the program for their co-operation and for their commitment in promoting literacy in Canada.

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THE ECONOMY

Hon. Warren Allmand (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce): Madam Speaker, when the economy was improving in 1984, this Conservative government had all the answers and took credit. Now that the economy is in decline, this same government washes its hands and blames others.

Yesterday the Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs reported a 34 per cent increase in bankruptcies since last year, with a 21 per cent increase in corporate bankruptcies.

Last Friday Statistics Canada reported that unemployment rose from 7.2 per cent to 7.6 per cent in the month of May, with over one million Canadians out of work and a loss of 165,000 manufacturing jobs over the past year.

When will the government wake up and readjust its economic policy? High interest rates are not the answer at this time, and the government should take moderating action.

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VETERANS AFFAIRS

Mr. Benno Friesen (Surrey—White Rock): Madam Speaker, the Minister of Veterans Affairs had good news for British Columbia's veterans last Friday. The Minister of Veterans Affairs and British Columbia Health Minister John Jansen signed an agreement to provide 200 long-term health care beds for veterans.

This agreement, worth up to \$35 million over the next five years, provides for the capital cost of priority beds for veterans in centres as needed throughout the province. The distribution of these beds is to be decided upon in co-operation with the province. This will ensure that veterans who are no longer able to carry on in their own