June 12, 1985

[Translation]

EMPLOYMENT

CHALLENGE '85-TÉMISCAMINGUE, QUEBEC

Mr. Gabriel Desjardins (Témiscamingue): Mr. Speaker, on February 12 of this year, following the announcement of a new student summer employment program, Challenge '85, I said in the House that Témiscamingue would accept the challenge.

Mr. Speaker, I have the honour and the privilege of announcing today that Témiscamingue has indeed accepted the challenge. In fact, the response of the private sector and our municipalities to my appeal was so positive that 530 jobs will be created this summer in my riding, which is 180 more than in the summer of 1984. I particularly want to stress that this tremendous success was made possible by the efforts and involvement of 78 businesses in the riding which decided to do their share by hiring students this summer.

That is the kind of leadership given by our Government in creating jobs. The Minister of Employment and Immigration (Miss MacDonald) and the Minister of State (Youth) (Mrs. Champagne) deserve our appreciation for designing a program that has proved to be so popular.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I shall, if I may, offer my sincere thanks to the business people and municipalities that agreed to encourage and to invest in the energies and talents of our young students.

• (1410)

[English]

PARLIAMENT HILL

DIESEL FUMES EMITTED BY CHARTERED BUSES

Mr. Stan Darling (Parry Sound-Muskoka): Mr. Speaker, I present you with a proposal which would make Parliament Hill a more pleasant workplace. The Hill has the dubious distinction of possessing its very own source of air pollution. Through you, Mr. Speaker, I would ask the powers that be to disallow chartered buses from idling their engines while parked between the Centre Block and the West Block. Diesel fumes hang everywhere in that area and fairly choke the people who work on the Hill, as well as many tourists who have come to meet their representatives in Ottawa.

Having checked with the RCMP I have learned the buses in this area are parked illegally. Efforts to keep the area clear of buses are not always successful, but surely we could try to have the drivers turn them off if they do stay.

As Chairman of the Special Committee on Acid Rain, and a concerned citizen, I would remind Members that the nitrogen oxides spewing from these beasts is a major contributor to acid precipitation. Heavy duty vehicles contribute 12 per cent of the NOx emissions in Canada. I have heard of Members of

S.O. 21

Parliament with offices in the West Block say they want the bus engines turned off. We are tired of having a pall of pollution hanging over our heads, and I encourage others to join us in the fight for clean air.

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DISARMAMENT

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL PEACE CONFERENCE AFFIRMATION

Mrs. Sheila Finestone (Mount Royal): Mr. Speaker, I have just returned from the Women's International Peace Conference in Halifax, and I would like to read into the record excerpts from their final affirmation:

We 350 women of the world community, from 33 countries, affirm the overwhelming need and desperate urgency for peace, which we believe is both the process we live and the goal for which we work.

At this conference, women from diverse racial, cultural, ethnic and political backgrounds representing different sides of conflict areas, came together as a living example of women negotiating peace. Some of us compromised our own safety to make this commitment. Although women's voices have not been heard and women have not participated equally in peace negotiations or in the formulation of the institutions and the cultural fabric in which we live, we are more than half the world's population; we do have power, and we are shaping it for peaceful living. We condemn militarism. It is an addiction that distorts human development, causing world-wide poverty, starvation, pollution, repression, torture and death. Feeding this habit robs all the world's children and future generations of their inheritance.

We all live in the shadow of the threat of nuclear war. We demand an end to research, testing, development, and deployment of all weapons of mass destruction, to the militarization of space and to all forms of violence. As a first step, we call for a comprehensive test ban treaty. We are committed to acting globally, nationally, locally and individually for peace. We will not compromise our commitment to the survival and healing of this planet. We affirm the right of every human being to live with dignity, equality, justice and joy.

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[Translation]

AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

GOVERNOR GENERAL'S LITERARY AWARD WON BY AUTHOR JACQUES BRAULT

Mrs. Gabrielle Bertrand (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, as the Member for Brome-Missisquoi, I would like to say how proud I am of the honour bestowed on one of my constituents. In Toronto on June 6, Her Excellency Madame Jeanne Sauvé awarded the Governor General's Award for Literature to Jacques Brault.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mrs. Bertrand: The author was very definitely inspired by the natural beauties of the riding, its lakes, hills and valleys.

I sincerely hope that his work will continue to find an enthusiastic readership and that Hon. Members will be unanimous in offering him their congratulations.