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● (1410)

As you know, Mr. Speaker, this fall we will have municipal elections in the Province of Ontario. It is important for citizens to be aware of their responsibilities with regard to municipal elections.

The initiative of Local Government Week will serve to promote local government, to advise citizens of their rights under local government, and to ensure that citizens participate to the fullest.

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ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

SCARBOROUGH'S ROUGE RIVER VALLEY—CALL FOR PRESERVATION OF WILDLIFE AREA

Mrs. Pauline Browes (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of the Environment): Mr. Speaker, Rouge River Valley in Scarborough is a precious natural treasure. As well as containing rare wildlife, the valley's 5,000 acres serve as an outdoor classroom for thousands of school children who visit the area to learn about conservation.

Despite the valley's natural significance the Ontario Government is determined to develop it for luxury housing. Representatives of the Save the Rouge Valley System organization are here in Ottawa to gather support for preserving the valley.

I have been pleased to join with Jim Robb, Glenn De Baeremaeker, Ron Moeser, Gloria Reszler, and Cathy Gregorio in their meetings here to lend my support to their efforts.

Tomorrow the federal Minister of the Environment (Mr. McMillan) will visit the Rouge for a first-hand look at this beautiful area.

At this point, the start of Wildlife Week in Canada, I call on the Ontario Government to listen to the people and to save the Rouge Valley for our children and our future.

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OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

MEECH LAKE ACCORD—SASKATCHEWAN PREMIER'S SPEECH

Ms. Pauline Jewett (New Westminster—Coquitlam): Mr. Speaker, during debate in the Saskatchewan Legislature to ratify the Meech Lake Accord several short months ago the Premier of Saskatchewan said this:

Section 2 of the new amendment recognizes the existence of French-speaking Canadians, located primarily in Quebec, but also present elsewhere in Canada—as a fundamental characteristic of our nation... Affirmation is given to the role of Canada, as well as that of every province, to preserve the linguistic duality of Canada.

If the Premier still believes that it is the role of Canada as well as that of every province to preserve the linguistic duality of Canada, then presumably the size of the linguistic minority is not relevant. Fundamental principles are.

The Premier's new language legislation, by failing to implement the fundamental principle of linguistic duality, betrays both the spirit and the letter of the Meech Lake Accord, and belies the Premier's own words in the Legislature last July 9. Surely even Conservatives understand this.

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[Translation]

PEACE

SEARCH FOR A LASTING PEACE IN CENTRAL AMERICA

Mr. Gabriel Desjardins (Témiscamingue): Mr. Speaker, last weekend, from April 9 to 11, I attended in Oxford, England, an international conference on peace and development in Central America. More than 20 countries, including Canada, were represented at that conference by parliamentarians of all political parties. That conference will not have been fruitless but, on the contrary, very productive since tens of proposals have been put forward for the establishment of a lasting peace plan in Central America.

Mr. Speaker, there is no need to recall that the crucial problems of the five Central American countries are a growing debt and an urgent need for economic development assistance. I am sure that our government will not be insensitive to the present plight in that part of the world and that it will spare no efforts to bring a lasting peace to more than 20 million human beings who deserve more than the indifference of their fellow creatures.

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[English]

FARM CREDIT CORPORATION

CALL FOR GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. Maurice Foster (Algoma): Mr. Speaker, the farm debt crisis has steadily worsened since the Government came to power in 1984.

The Farm Credit Corporation has been prevented from doing its job because of the lack of action and decision by the Government. In July of 1985 the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Wise) ordered a review of the Farm Credit Corporation's mandate and operations and promised to report by September of 1985. Almost three years later we still do not have that report.