

[Translation]

### UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE REFORM

**Mrs. Pierrette Venne (Saint-Hubert):** Mr. Speaker, one of the Conservative government's ministers has decided to amend the Unemployment Insurance Act, and we know what an outcry this has provoked.

Before even thinking about changing the act, the Minister of Employment and Immigration should have started by improving it.

• (1410)

Women are discriminated against in the act, and Lucienne Gosselin-Gravel, who worked for her husband for several years and paid into the plan the whole time, is blatant proof. Mrs. Gosselin-Gravel was denied unemployment insurance benefits because she is married to her employer.

The Association des femmes collaboratrices et partenaires en affaires has decided to support Mrs. Gosselin-Gravel in her claim and contest the constitutionality of section 3(2)(c) of the act, which discriminates against women.

I wish them good luck, and I hope the courts give this woman justice, because the act does not.

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[English]

### CROSSBOWS

**Mr. Ross Belsher (Fraser Valley East):** Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to the attention of this House the tragic death of Silvia Leung, a 20-year old college student from Vancouver.

The use of a crossbow in the January 24 murder of Miss Leung is disturbingly similar to the November 1991 murder of an Ottawa resident, Patricia Allen, by her husband, Colin McGregor.

I realize that the use of crossbows and similar weapons in criminal activity is quite limited in Canada. However these two incidents have prompted many of my constituents to ask for stricter controls on the sale, possession and use of crossbows.

Bona fide hunters and target shooters have long used these weapons without difficulty. Most people will say

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there is a problem with the current regulations when a minor, a mentally unstable individual, or a convicted criminal can enter a sporting goods store and purchase a crossbow without any registration, licence or background checks.

I ask whether the Minister of Justice agrees the time is now to take the necessary steps to address the concerns of so many Canadians.

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### HERITAGE DAY

**Mr. Lyle Dean MacWilliam (Okanagan—Shuswap):** Mr. Speaker, few Canadians have opportunities to celebrate their heritage or celebrate Canadian unity.

Municipalities and provincial governments across Canada have recently begun to designate the third Monday of February as Heritage Day, an important occasion when we can all celebrate the richness of our heritage.

Today I would like to pay tribute to my colleague, the member for Prince George—Bulkley Valley, who on this date last year spoke out on behalf of all Canadians in his private member's bill proclaiming this a national holiday, our Heritage Day.

Private members' bills rarely come to a vote but my colleague's bill was brought before the House and was shamefully defeated by both the Tories and the Liberals who would deny Canadians the opportunity to take the time to reflect upon their national identity.

I am sure all Canadians would appreciate the pause provided by Heritage Day. I for one will be voting in favour of the bill when the hon. member for Prince George—Bulkley Valley brings it forward again in a new session.

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### UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE REFORM

**Mr. Peter L. McCreath (South Shore):** Mr. Speaker, I rise to encourage the government and in particular the Minister of Employment and Immigration to stand firm with his proposed reform of the unemployment insurance system.

With the exception of paid trade union leaders whose agenda is generally indistinguishable from that of the NDP and who for that matter frequently reflect the