

## RIGHT TO LIFE

SUPPORT URGED FOR MOTION TO PROTECT RIGHTS OF THE UNBORN

**Mr. Bill Gottselig (Moose Jaw):** Mr. Speaker, after many weeks of waiting I understand that the Private Member's Motion of my colleague, the Hon. Member for Grey—Simcoe (Mr. Mitges), will be voted upon this afternoon. This is a truly historical occasion, as Members of the House have not had the opportunity to vote on an item concerning the rights of the unborn child for many years.

Hundreds of thousands of pro-life Canadians will be watching the actions of all Hon. Members this afternoon. Voters have made their views known over the last several months by letters, telephone calls, petitions, and personal visits to Members of Parliament. There used to be a myth that standing up for the rights of the unborn child might be committing political suicide. The vote this afternoon will dispel that myth once and for all. Support for this motion from many areas of the country has been overwhelming.

Passage of the motion will allow the House to continue discussions on the legal rights of the unborn child. I urge all Hon. Members to be in the House this afternoon and to vote in favour of Motion M-37. It is literally time to stand up and be counted.

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## HOUSE OF COMMONS

STANDING ORDERS—PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

**Mr. Bill Blaikie (Winnipeg—Birds Hill):** Mr. Speaker, as everyone knows, the Government has put down a motion in respect of changing the Standing Orders of the House. If no agreement regarding the motion can be arrived at sometime today, the motion will be passed unilaterally.

I bring to the attention of the House and the public that the last time the Standing Orders were changed unilaterally was in 1969 when the Liberal Government brought in the current time allocation provisions by the use of the old closure motion. I think the time before that when the Standing Orders were changed unilaterally was back to 1913 or something like that.

If this unilateral motion goes ahead, we will be looking at a very serious set-back for both the spirit and substance of parliamentary reform. I have been part and parcel of that reform process since the setting up of the Lefebvre committee in 1982. In the last five years we have seen a great deal of progress in Parliament. The Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) has been very good since 1984 in encouraging that process.

I would certainly hope that the Government will think twice—and I know that it is thinking twice—and will be open to suggestions, negotiation, and improvement, so that we will not be forced to spoil the spirit of parliamentary reform which

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has existed in this place in recent years by having a unilateral change in the Standing Orders imposed upon Parliament.

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## HISTORIC EVENTS

ITALY—ANNIVERSARY OF REPLACEMENT OF MONARCHY

**Mr. Bob Pennock (Etobicoke North):** Mr. Speaker, today, June 2, is National Day in Italy. This special holiday commemorates the day in 1946 when the Italian people voted in a national referendum to replace the monarchy with a republic.

Since the Second World War, Canada and Italy have grown progressively closer in many respects and today enjoy a truly special relationship. This special relationship is largely the result of the many thousands of Italians who chose to make Canada their home.

Italian Canadians embody all the best that Canada has to offer. While maintaining and promoting their Italian heritage, they are fiercely Canadian and embrace with a vengeance all the country has to offer.

The Italian population in Canada have added greatly to the diversity and development of our country. Their entrepreneurial spirit is much the same as the first pioneers who settled Canada. Their continued drive and determination to succeed has benefited us all.

In April I had the opportunity to participate in bilateral discussions with Canadian and Italian representatives, which culminated in the signing of the Second Cultural Agreement.

I know all Canadians will join with me in celebrating Italy's National Day.

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[*Translation*]

## AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

TRIBUTE TO EIGHT CANADIAN AND QUEBEC AUTHORS

**Mrs. Lucie Pépin (Outremont):** Last week in Toronto, Mr. Speaker, eight Canadian and Quebec authors were honoured by Madam Jeanne Sauvé. The 1987 Governor General Award was presented by Madam Sauvé to Northrop Frye, Régine Robin, Alice Munro, Al Purdy, Sharon Pollock, Cécile Cloutier, Anne Legault and Yvon Rivard.

On behalf of all my colleagues, I extend to them our sincere congratulations. Among these seven award winners, Mrs. Legault and Mrs. Régine Robin are Montrealers, and Mr. Yvon Rivard lives in the City of Outremont. He is well-known in Montreal and Quebec literary circles and was singled out for this award for his third novel, *Les silences du corbeau*. His readers, both men and women, have come to acknowledge that his vast talents are reflected in his style, the poetry of his