

S. O. 31

Mr. Kilger: I would like to congratulate Terrace Investments and everyone who backed the franchise bid.

I also want to commend the people who backed the application for the city of Hamilton. We hope that Hamilton will be included in the next round of expansion in the national hockey league.

Some hon. members: Hear, hear.

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NATIONAL UNITY

Mr. Walter Van De Walle (St. Albert): Mr. Speaker, Canadians want a united Canada. Working together we have been building a tolerant, democratic, peaceful, and prosperous country and we have made tremendous progress. Together Canadians must continue this task.

While some spread doom and gloom and promote disunity and discord, our Prime Minister has shown initiative and leadership with his creation of the Citizen's Forum and his invitation for all Canadians to be heard.

One group in Alberta speaking out loudly and clearly for Canadian unity is the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties. At its recent convention it resolved that to "support those leaders whose goals are to develop a constitution for all Canadians, for one nation, united by our land and spirit, respecting our country, our flag, our home, our Canada."

Canadians want a united Canada.

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VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Mr. Rey Pagtakhan (Winnipeg North): Mr. Speaker, today marks a memorial of sorrow. One year ago, Canada witnessed the brutal massacre of 14 young women at the École polytechnique in Montreal, a most terrifying example of violence against women.

Sexual assault, emotional abuse, battering, and murder of women continue to escalate. Battering of women is now a major public health problem. Indeed, women of all ages are scared, and rightly so. There is no sanctuary from the fear.

Is it not within our mandate to legislate for a secure future for Canadian women and to pass strict gun control laws? Let us support the call for a royal commission on violence against women.

As we mourn today those precious lives lost one year ago, please remember our Canadian obligation to keep Canadian women and all Canadians safe from harm and free of fear.

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[Translation]

RIDING OF CHÂTEAUGUAY

Mr. Ricardo Lopez (Châteauguay): Mr. Speaker, the riding of Châteauguay was severely affected by the Amerindian crisis last summer and, unfortunately, it is not over yet.

I want to ask the government to provide special economic assistance that will help the riding recover from the aftermath of these events.

I also want to ask the government to clarify the status of Indian land claims and give investors and the people of Châteauguay the assurance that these claims will not block the area's economic development, which badly needs a boost.

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QUEBEC SOVEREIGNTY

Hon. Jean Lapierre (Shefford): Mr. Speaker, today I rise in the House to pay tribute to a government that is helping us achieve sovereignty. The federal government is withdrawing from most areas that affect the lives of this country's citizens. It has cut postal services and railway transportation; it is making cutbacks at the CBC and privatizing Petro-Canada; it will shut off the Sarnia-Montreal pipe-line, cut back unemployment insurance and cut back regional development.

Mr. Speaker, in addition they cannot agree with the Government of Quebec on immigration. They cannot agree on occupational training, they cannot agree on regional development and they cannot agree on communications.

Mr. Speaker, initially, we said that sovereignty was desirable. Now, we realize it is necessary. And the evidence is mounting that the sooner it happens, the better.