

S. O. 21

● (1405)

[English]

GERIATRICS

POPULATION'S AGING TREND

Mr. Alan Redway (York East): Mr. Speaker, the announcement last week of the birth in Toronto of test-tube triplets has resulted in some well-deserved national attention for my friend, Dr. George Woo, his laboratory initiated foetal emplacement program, and the Toronto East General and Orthopaedic Hospital in my constituency.

It also brings to mind the fact that when my children were born there, the East General recorded more births each year than any other hospital in Canada, with the exception of the Vancouver General. Now all of that has changed.

Apart from Dr. Woo's in vitro fertilization program, the East General is now better known for geriatrics than it is for obstetrics. It is a dramatic reminder of Canada's aging population. At present, approximately 11 per cent of Canadians are over 65; in my riding it is over 20 per cent. By the year 2010, over 25 per cent of all Canadians will be senior citizens.

If Canada's birth rate and immigration levels do not increase, there will be a smaller pool of workers to support this larger number of seniors. Mr. Speaker, do you ever wonder where your old age pension is going to come from?

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ENVIRONMENT WEEK

CALL FOR RE-EVALUATION OF DRAFT LEGISLATION

Mr. Bill Blaikie (Winnipeg—Birds Hill): Mr. Speaker, today marks the beginning of Environment Week. All across Canada events took place last weekend, and will be taking place this week, pursuant to the theme: "It's up to all of us".

I want the Government to remember that it is also very much up to the Government. In keeping with that sentiment, I call upon the Minister of the Environment (Mr. McMillan) to re-evaluate the Environmental Protection Act, the draft of which he has already put before the public and of which he intends to introduce a second draft this month. I call upon him to respond to the criticisms that have been made of the first draft.

The Minister and the Government know—

[*Editor's Note: And a stranger having entered the Chamber, addressed the Chair, and been removed by Assistant Deputy Sergeant-at-Arms Leo Robitaille:*]

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Member for Winnipeg—Birds Hill.

Mr. Blaikie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I did not mean to get everybody so excited.

I call upon the Government to consider the following recommendations to the Environmental Protection Act so that the Act might live up to its name: to incorporate a meaningful Environmental Bill of Rights establishing Canadians' right to a clean and healthy environment and the right to go to court to protect those rights; to expand the scope of the Act to include the control and registration of pesticides, and other federal environmental legislation; to make the Act the pre-eminent federal environmental legislation, taking precedence over all others; and to strengthen the public's right-to-know provisions in the Act and increased public involvement in the operation of the Act.

These are but a few of the changes the Government should make to the proposed Environmental Protection Act if it is truly serious about protecting the environment.

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[Translation]

CULTURE

WEEK OF FRENCH SONGS IN CANADA—ROLE OF BROADCASTERS

Mrs. Lise Bourgault (Argenteuil—Papineau): Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Minister of Communications (Miss MacDonald) I am pleased to tell the House that the Week of French Song in Canada was officially opened yesterday evening. This remarkable event is undoubtedly a highlight in the history of French broadcasting in Canada. For the first time in the world public and private broadcasters join their efforts to celebrate their country's talents.

The main purpose of this project sponsored by the *Association canadienne de la radio et de la télévision de langue française* is to provide francophone creators and performers a unique opportunity to present their works and gain wider recognition and better appreciation in their respective circles. This ACRTF initiative shows it is anxious to respond more readily to the needs and aspirations of francophones artists and audiences in Canada, and its determination to contribute to the expansion of the French presence on our airwaves.

Mr. Speaker, let us hope this event will make Canadians proud of all these artists, and at the same time pay high tribute to the artisans of Canada's French song industry.

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CANADA POST CORPORATION

REQUEST THAT HOME MAIL DELIVERY SERVICE BE RESTORED

Mr. Alfonso Gagliano (Saint-Léonard—Anjou): Mr. Speaker, yesterday afternoon, despite the rain, several hundred people in Montreal East met to protest against the service provided by Canada Post with the Government's approval, and