

Oral Questions

stowed so much love and care on their children, only to have them leave this world through an accident of fate.

Mr. Speaker, I also wish to express our feelings of profound sympathy with Inspector Laurent Leclair who, as the first person to arrive on the scene, found his own daughter among the victims. A terrible shock and a heart-wrenching example of the harsh realities with which the police is sometimes confronted.

This tragedy also demonstrated the dedication and effectiveness of our ambulance services, our police force and our medical teams whose professionalism was exemplary, in the circumstances.

• (1420)

[English]

On behalf of the right hon. Leader of the Official Opposition and the members of the Liberal caucus, I extend my deepest and heartfelt sympathy to the families of the victims of this horrible and senseless crime.

We also want those who witnessed this shocking event to know that our thoughts are with them as they attempt to deal with the pain and anguish of losing so many friends.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Leader of the Official Opposition and all my Liberal colleagues, I want to again extend our deepest, most sincere sympathy to the families and friends of the victims and assure them of our prayers.

[English]

Ms. Audrey McLaughlin (Yukon): Mr. Speaker, like most Canadians, it was with great horror that we learned of yesterday's tragedy at Ecole Polytechnique, University of Montreal.

[Translation]

Unlike other regions of the world where large cities are often the scene of this kind of horrifying drama, neither Canada nor Quebec has ever had such a killing.

Fourteen young women in the prime of life were savagely killed by a mad gunman; at least 13 others were injured, several of them seriously.

[English]

Those lost lives were our future; young minds who were attending school to acquire an education to work in their community, to share their abilities with their friends and families; young minds who wanted to contribute to Canada, and I guess young hearts that wanted to love. We will never know what gifts of joy or of laughter were extinguished by this act of horror.

Our hearts and our deepest feelings are with the families and with the friends of these young victims even though we know that this can be of little comfort to them.

We in this House grieve today as does every other Canadian. We will never be the same again.

[Translation]

On behalf of my colleagues in the NDP and all Canadians, I offer the families and friends of these young victims our sincerest condolences.

Mr. Speaker: I ask all hon. members to observe a minute of silence.

[Editor's Note: The House observed a minute of silence.]

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

THE ECONOMY

Mr. Jim Peterson (Willowdale): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Finance, I would like to address my question to the right hon. Prime Minister.

Yesterday the Canadian dollar reached a nine-year high, 86.13 cents American. This is up from 71 cents just a few years ago in 1985. We are seeing the results in terms of jobs in our economy due to these very high exchange rates.

In the second quarter of this year, our trade surplus fell to \$.5 billion from the previous quarter of \$5.5 billion. We know that for every 1 cent increase in the value of the Canadian dollar, we lose \$1.3 billion in export sales.

Just this morning Mr. James Taylor, the president of the Canadian Exporters Association, called on this