

COMMUNICATIONS

Mrs. Dianne Brushett (Cumberland—Colchester): Mr. Speaker, Canada's private radio broadcasters have suffered very tough times in recent years.

In the past three years, collectively they have lost more than \$100 million. In 1992 private radio stations on average lost \$72,000 and 58 per cent were unprofitable. Now the Department of Canadian Heritage, in amending the Copyright Act, is considering major new fees on private broadcasters known as neighbouring rights.

I am very concerned that the neighbouring rights amendment, as proposed, would be detrimental to the survival of small radio stations in my riding in Truro and in Amherst.

It is essential that any changes in copyright law must not endanger the vital services of small town broadcasters to all Canadians.

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BLACK WATCH REGIMENTAL BAND

Hon. Warren Allmand (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce): Mr. Speaker, I want to protest the proposed cuts to the Black Watch Regimental Band stationed in Montreal. In effect these cuts would kill this renowned Canadian institution.

The Black Watch Band is 132 years old and is the last remaining highland band in Quebec. It represents an outstanding regiment which distinguished itself in both the first and second world wars.

This band has been a significant symbol of Canadian valour, culture and social commitment. Every year the Black Watch Band appears at a wide variety of community and social functions, including the Canada Day parade, the St. Patrick's parade and many others.

It seems strange that in the same month where we honoured our Canadian troops for their D-Day contribution and the Black Watch Band participated in these ceremonies, the government is now taking steps to cut the band.

Since it is only a matter of \$28,000, which will not affect our deficit one way or another, I ask the government to reconsider this decision which would kill a great Montreal institution, one that contributes much to our heritage and to our community.

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[Translation]

AIDS

Mr. Réal Ménard (Hochelaga—Maisonnette): Mr. Speaker, yesterday, the member for Wild Rose said something in this House that I found quite outrageous. He condemned the Depart-

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ment of Health for distributing an information brochure on how AIDS is transmitted.

The disturbing thing is that an elected representative of the people does not know that AIDS is a viral infection transmitted through blood or semen. For lack of protection and sufficient information, hundreds of people have contracted this disease and died from it. It is unfortunate that Reform members are so hard on the homosexual community. This gut-level homophobia has no place in Parliament.

Some Reform Party members have shown narrow-mindedness, partisanship and base ignorance of the AIDS problem. The Department of Health should give them an intensive briefing on how AIDS is transmitted; this search for information should be the first step to greater tolerance.

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[English]

RU486

Mr. Grant Hill (MacLeod): Mr. Speaker, recent reports confirm that a number of health practitioners have illegally imported and are prescribing the abortion pill RU486.

The drug's manufacturer has said it will not apply to test and sell the drug in Canada unless specifically invited to do so. The government has been quoted as saying that it never asks companies to make specific drugs available and will not make an exception for the manufacturer of RU486. Nevertheless the drug is in Canada and is being prescribed to women without legal approval.

Possession and use of illegal drugs are serious criminal offences and for good reason. The health and safety of Canadians depends, to a large degree, on effective and enforced drug legislation. Criminal law dealing with RU486 should be no exception.

Therefore I call on the Solicitor General to initiate an RCMP investigation into the possession, use and prescription of the illegal drug RU486.

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ENVIRONMENTAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Mr. Peter Adams (Peterborough): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to be able to remind members of the House and all Canadians that Environment Canada is accepting nominations for environmental achievement awards until August 2.

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[Translation]

These awards to be given by the Minister of the Environment at a conference in December show that every effort helps to protect our environment and thus our future.