

S. O. 31

I have just come from a luncheon here on Parliament Hill in support of the National 4-H Citizenship Seminar, where 4-H members have an opportunity to learn about parliamentary activities. They are young agricultural enthusiasts who can communicate very well to parliamentarians about the need to support agriculture.

Can the member, representing an agricultural area of our country, tell us about his support for Canadian 4-H and how important that program is to all Canadians?

Mr. Hoepfner: Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the question.

I have always been very supportive of the 4-H program. The Reform Party is very supportive as well of that program and also very supportive of any R and D in agriculture. Those two things probably go together.

When it comes to protecting and promoting agriculture, I am never in the backbenches; I am always in the front seat. I will continue that way, and I appreciate having that opportunity.

The Speaker: My colleagues, it being 2 p.m., pursuant to Standing Order 35, the House will now proceed to statements by members.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

[English]

V-E DAY ANNIVERSARY

Mr. Andy Mitchell (Parry Sound—Muskoka, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, I rise in the House today to acknowledge the special effort of a number of my constituents who have joined together to host a very special event in my riding.

On May 6 and 7 of this year the committee will launch High Hopes—Looking Back, Flying Forward, a special 50th anniversary celebration of V-E Day at the Muskoka airport.

This two-day family event brings together veterans, historians, aviation industry representatives, international dignitaries, pilots and aircraft enthusiasts to promote and foster appreciation for all things connected to air travel. The show features appearances by a Lancaster bomber, the B-25 Mitchell, World War I replicas, a C-130 Hercules, plus a Tiger moth and a Grasshopper among others.

The idea was given flight both as a tribute to those who served in World War II and a way to encourage economic activity at the Muskoka airport, which has long been recognized as an important link to our local economy.

My congratulations go out to the promoters of High Hopes for the energy and spirit they have brought to this project.

[Translation]

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Mr. Michel Daviault (Ahuntsic, BQ): Mr. Speaker, yesterday, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Immigration spoke against a motion presented by one of her Liberal colleagues. The motion reminded Quebecers and Canadians that any country or political group that resorts to genocide commits a crime against humanity.

Our amendment used the Armenian genocide which the Canadian government continues to ignore, as an example that such barbaric acts should never be forgotten.

The hon. member was probably bowing to the government's new priorities in foreign affairs, where business interests are now more important than promoting human rights and freedoms in this world.

The government's refusal to review the sale of its CF-5 fighter planes to Turkey, despite the Turkish offensive against the Kurds, is a case in point.

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[English]

LACROSSE

Mrs. Daphne Jennings (Mission—Coquitlam, Ref.): Mr. Speaker, after reassuring Canadians through legislation that lacrosse remains a national sport, just one year later lacrosse is once more fighting for recognition.

Who did the Canadian people vote to make decisions for them, the 295 MPs elected in October 1993 or those few deciding which sports to fund? Yes, cuts have to be made. However, the guidelines and their implementation for the allocation of funds are unfair.

With one day's notice lacrosse lost 60 per cent of its funding. The process is wrong. Those making the decisions have lost sight of the fact that lacrosse, our national sport, has been ignored for the past 60 years, whereas hockey remains strong because of their constant support.

I remind the House that in 1904 Canada sent its first delegation to the Olympic games. Lacrosse is the only team sport in which Canada has won more medals than the rest of the world combined.

Lacrosse is growing in population yearly, especially after last year's Commonwealth games. Our Canadian youth need our support to keep them playing lacrosse.

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HEALTH CARE

Mr. John Maloney (Erie, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, I was very disturbed by news reports suggesting that a youth in Edmonton