

S. O. 31

• (1405)

CUBA

Mr. Andrew Telegdi (Waterloo, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, today we celebrate the 50th anniversary of Canada's unbroken diplomatic relationship with Cuba.

Canada and Cuba maintain a friendly and diverse relationship which includes political diplomacy, trade and commerce, scientific and economic co-operation, and tourism. In the area of fisheries, Cuba has supported our view on the need for measures to end high seas overfishing.

Cuba is a nation that is now in transition to a market economy, a nation with which we have significant trade, an area that we can and should expand upon. To enable Canadian businesses to compete for new economic opportunities in Cuba, I urge the Minister for International Trade to reinstate the \$30 million line of credit to Cuba so that Canadian companies can take advantage of it to increase Canada-Cuban trade.

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[Translation]

CANADIAN ARMED FORCES

Mr. Jean-Marc Jacob (Charlesbourg, BQ): Mr. Speaker, three years after the auditor general drew the attention of the government to what it costs taxpayers in Canada and Quebec to train a member of the armed forces reserve—90 per cent of what it costs to train a regular soldier—no steps have been taken to stop this wasteful spending.

In fact, the Canadian Reserve whose training is ineffective and inadequate, is the most expensive in the world after the one in Switzerland, which has no army. It will cost us a billion dollars again this year.

Ironically, the government decided to quietly get rid of the Advisory Council on the Status of Women and save a paltry one million dollars, while the National Defence budget, which totals more than \$11 billion, was cut by less than 5 per cent this year.

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[English]

JUSTICE

Mr. Philip Mayfield (Cariboo—Chilcotin, Ref.): Mr. Speaker, the people of Quesnel, British Columbia are outraged by our so-called justice system.

Last Sunday, Quesnel RCMP arrested a 19-year old man who, according to witnesses, dragged an elderly woman into his hotel room, held a knife to her throat and brutally raped her. When the woman's husband entered the scene, the rapist chased him down the hall and threatened him at knifepoint. The community hoped that justice would be served.

The elderly woman who is in what are supposed to be her golden years is in trauma therapy. The loving couple has been scarred forever. Imagine the shock Quesnel residents felt when this rapist was allowed back into the community on a petty \$1,000 bond.

Canadians deserve better. While our criminals are given free college tuition or are let go on token bonds to roam the streets, shattered lives are left to heal on their own. Meanwhile, the public continues to ask who the justice system works for, the victim or the criminal?

Will the justice minister please stop wasting time on pet projects and start working to put justice back into the justice system?

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FISHERIES

Mrs. Bonnie Hickey (St. John's East, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, there are 50,000 people out of work in Atlantic Canada because of the collapse of our fishery. These 50,000 people were forced to turn to government assistance to help put food on the table.

During the election campaign, Liberals pledged that our government would support its fishermen, deal with foreign overfishing and help preserve the remaining fish stock. Over the past week, our government has come through on this commitment 100 per cent.

On behalf of my constituents, I commend our minister of fisheries for taking a strong stand against foreign overfishing, ensuring that the turbot does not go the way of the cod. Over the past week I have received faxes, phone calls, petitions and letters of support for the minister of fisheries. That support has been well founded.

Today foreign ships are no longer fishing on the nose and tail of the Grand Banks. We are on the verge of negotiating stricter international rules.

Today I challenge all MPs to stand behind the minister as he continues to fight to protect and preserve the Canadian fishery.

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[Translation]

FRANCOPHONES OUTSIDE QUEBEC

Mrs. Pierrette Ringuette-Maltais (Madawaska—Victoria, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, the Bloc member for Rimouski—Témiscouata and critic for the Department of Canadian Heritage toured the country to tell francophone communities that the Bloc was with them all the way.

But Tuesday, the honeymoon was over when she accused the francophones of this country of being sell-outs.