

## HOUSE OF COMMONS

Thursday, April 2, 1992

The House met at 10 a.m.

---

*Prayers*

---

### ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[*Translation*]

#### PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

TABLING OF GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO THIRD REPORT  
OF STANDING COMMITTEE

**Hon. Gilles Loiselle (President of the Treasury Board and Minister of State (Finance)):** Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 32(2), I have the pleasure to table, in both official languages, the government's complete response to the third report of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts.

\* \* \*

[*English*]

#### GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO PETITIONS

**Mrs. Barbara Sparrow (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of National Health and Welfare):** Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 36(8), I have the honour to table, in both official languages, the government's response to 28 petitions.

[*Editor's Note: See today's Votes and Proceedings.*]

\* \* \*

#### THE ENVIRONMENT

NATIONAL WILDLIFE WEEK

**Hon. Pauline Browes (Minister of State (Environment)):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to the attention of members of the House and Canadians the many activities taking place across Canada to celebrate National Wildlife Week from April 5 to April 11.

We should not underestimate the significance of wildlife to Canada's development, both economically and culturally.

First, our aboriginal peoples developed a traditional way of life in close harmony with nature. Later, European explorers marvelled at the wealth of the wildlife in our seas and in our forests.

Canadian literature and art are rich in themes of wildlife and landscape, bearing witness to the powerful influence of nature on our actions and ideas.

But despite our land's vastness and its rich endowment of wilderness, wildlife is threatened here in Canada, as elsewhere, by human activity crowding our natural habitat. Canada's list of endangered wildlife gets longer each year and now stands at more than 200 species. This trend is alarming, but it is not irreversible, and in recent months a range of wildlife initiatives have been launched under Canada's green plan in order to halt it.

These initiatives include a National Wildlife Strategy for Canada, the newly introduced Wild Animal and Plant Protection Act, the recently launched federal policy on wetland conservation, two agreements with the World Wildlife Fund Canada, and the establishment of a new migratory bird sanctuary in the Northwest Territories. All of these will help Canada's goal of preserving 12 per cent of the country as protected spaces.

In the international arena, Canada is active in protecting wildlife. During the ongoing negotiations leading up to the United Nations earth summit in Brazil this June, Canada is taking a leading part in working to develop a framework convention on biodiversity.

The Prime Minister has recently announced his decision to attend the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and his presence will underline Canada's commitment in this regard.

• (1010)

Efforts such as these to ensure the health and diversity of wild species, both nationally and globally, will be highlighted during National Wildlife Week.

Many private organizations and government agencies dedicated to conserving wildlife are joining forces to celebrate this week with a wide range of activities. For example across Canada, children are becoming more aware of wildlife conservation issues through the highly successful Habitat 2000 educational program developed by the Canadian Wildlife Federation.