

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Wednesday, June 2, 1993

The House met at 2 p.m.

Prayers

STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S. O. 31

[*Translation*]

NATIONAL ACCESS AWARENESS WEEK

Mr. Guy Saint-Julien (Abitibi): Madam Speaker, in June 1989, our Prime Minister, the Right Hon. Brian Mulroney, signed the official declaration for National Access Awareness Week, inviting all Canadians to make this week a special event and improve the quality of life in their communities.

Since then, communities across Canada have improved access to public places, services and facilities for persons with disabilities. However, much remains to be done to eliminate all barriers encountered by the disabled, who are entitled to take an active part in the daily life of their community and to have access to the same basic services as the rest of the population.

The impact of National Access Awareness Week should last throughout the year.

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TIOXIDE CANADA

Mrs. Shirley Maheu (Saint-Laurent—Cartierville): Madam Speaker, Tioxide Canada, a company that pollutes the waterways of Quebec with no apology whatsoever, has just been fined \$4 million, which is peanuts. The company heaved a sigh of relief, because it was expecting a fine of \$36 million as well as prison terms for some of its board members. What a difference a fine makes.

Why does the government not impose sentences that would deter effect polluters? Although Environment

Quebec now has two cases pending against Tioxide Canada, the Crown merely rapped the company's knuckles. The Conservative government had a moral obligation to go to the wall on this. This is certainly no way to clean up our environment. The federal government must wake up and impose sentences that will make all polluters think twice. Tomorrow, it will be too late.

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THE ABB PLANT

Mr. Marcel R. Tremblay (Québec—Est): Madam Speaker, I was delighted to hear that ABB, a high tech company in my riding, has taken another step to make its Quebec plant one of its most important condenser manufacturing units in the world.

• (1405)

Since it opened in 1991, the Quebec plant has been growing steadily and will double its capacity for the production of condensers by the first quarter of 1994, to supply the North American market.

ABB employs about 2,700 people in more than 35 plants in Canada and has annual sales of about \$1 billion. It is involved in many activity sectors including the production, transmission and distribution of electric power, industrial automation, steam generating systems, robotics, measuring instruments, environmental technologies, telecommunications and high-speed trains. The people of Quebec are proud to be part of the technology boom generated by ABB's experts.

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[*English*]

SMALL BUSINESS LOANS

Mr. Robert D. Nault (Kenora—Rainy River): Madam Speaker, the Royal Bank announced discounts of 10 per cent on service charges for small businesses. The major financial institutions continue to miss the point. Figures from October 1991 to October 1992 show that the value of small business loans by the big six banks increased by a