

S. O. 31

Love Literacy Day is an opportune time for recognizing the indispensable importance of literacy volunteers and their organizations to Canadian society.

* * *

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

Mr. Stan Keyes (Hamilton West): Mr. Speaker, constituents have brought to the attention of some members of the House that the Department of External Affairs circulated a data input form inviting Canadians to document breaches of humanitarian law in the former Yugoslavia.

The form states that: "Canada will draw on information gathered by this process in preparing a report to the UN Secretary-General" and should be mailed to an Ottawa post office box.

The form asks for the name of the person filling out the form, a description of events such as "rape, torture, execution, unfair trials and so on". It also calls for names and commentary on individuals who have allegedly committed breaches of law under the heading "Perpetrators".

How has Canada become involved in this witch-hunt which smacks of McCarthyism. Imagine someone in Canada who knows someone or some people in the former Yugoslavia they do not like. They attribute all sorts of atrocities to them and get others to do likewise.

How is this information verifiable? Is Canada to be party to this potential kangaroo court? More important, how can this Draconian measure be condoned by this government? I ask the Prime Minister to direct his ministers to put a stop to this shameful exercise.

* * *

[Translation]

TOBACCO SMUGGLING

Mrs. Lise Bourgault (Argenteuil—Papineau): Mr. Speaker, ridicule will finally kill society.

Rich tobacco smugglers can buy real estate and other property with complete peace of mind, owing to a defect in the Criminal Code that does not provide for the seizure of goods acquired from the sale of smuggled cigarettes.

The warehouses of flue cured tobacco producers are robbed in broad daylight by criminals who sell the contraband in our famous flea markets. Distributors and retailers lost over \$150 million in 1992 because of this illegal trade.

The governments in Quebec and Ottawa lost almost \$1 billion in 1992, \$450 million for Quebec and \$500 million for Ottawa as its share of the tax that would have been collected in Quebec. Imagine the disaster for all of Canada.

Crime has increased 100 per cent and Canadian smokers have become the accomplices of organized crime, something which has not been seen since Prohibition. This has been going on since July 1991 and it is time to stop it.

Quebec and Ottawa must drastically cut taxes in order to kill the black market. The Criminal Code must be amended to prevent these criminals from laundering money obtained from smuggling, the exits from the Indian reserves must be controlled and above all, Quebecers and Canadians must stop buying contraband cigarettes; otherwise, the governments alone will be unable to wipe out this evil.

* * *

MEMBERS FOR SKEENA AND CHAMBLY

Mr. Mark Assad (Gatineau—La Lièvre): Mr. Speaker, the French define politics as war in peacetime.

Indeed the member for Chambly and the member for Skeena seemed to be at war with each other. But upon checking, we found out that the member for Skeena was misquoted and so was the member for Chambly.

What I make of that is that people were misquoted. At least they agree that they disagree. I would ask both hon. members, the one for Skeena and the one for Chambly, to realize that this is not a battlefield but a place of peace.

* * *

[English]

PETITIONS

Mr. Benno Friesen (Surrey—White Rock—South Langley): Mr. Speaker, last fall the member for Surrey North filed a petition with the House containing the names of people who purportedly were objecting to the provisions of Bill C-86.