

[Translation]

BEST WISHES FOR A SPEEDY RECOVERY

Hon. Gérald-A. Beaudoin: Honourable senators, certain events transcend political differences, rivalry and philosophies. The struggle for his life that Lucien Bouchard has been waging these past few days is such an event. The remarkable determination and energy with which he is fighting this cruel disease denote great courage. Our hearts go out to him, his family and staff.

A word should be said about the excellent work of the medical team assigned to Mr. Bouchard. Doctor D'Amico and his colleagues have performed a minor miracle and we offer them our congratulation.

Canada is a great democracy. The coming year will be particularly important. We have a major political and constitutional issue to debate. The people of Quebec, who are part of this great democracy, have a decision to make. The debate will resume in due time, with all the major players in place. Lucien Bouchard must be one of them.

I would like to end by wishing Mr. Bouchard, the Leader of the Official Opposition in the Canadian Parliament, a speedy and full recovery. We are looking forward to having him back among us.

I also endorse the remarks made by Senator Joyce Fairbairn, the Leader of the Government in the Senate, on the anniversary of the terrible tragedy at l'École Polytechnique in Montreal. We will certainly have to change our criminal law so that such tragedies can never happen again.

NATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

ANNIVERSARY OF TRAGEDY AT L'ÉCOLE POLYTECHNIQUE

Hon. Lise Bacon: Honourable senators, on this sad anniversary I would like to pay tribute to the memory of the fourteen victims of the massacre at l'École Polytechnique in Montreal and express my sympathy to their families.

I also suggest that we take this opportunity to consider the omnipresent phenomenon of violence in our society and especially violence against women.

These young engineering students, cut down in the flower of their youth, represented the future, our future and the future of this country. A brutal and senseless massacre put an abrupt end to the hopes and dreams we shared for their future.

This terrible tragedy helped to focus public concern on the kind of violence that so far had remained hidden behind closed doors.

It is troubling to know that since the École Polytechnique massacre, nearly 500 women in Canada have been murdered by their spouses or ex-spouses. Last year, 75 per cent of such

women were killed in a private home, usually their own. Most of these women were between the ages of 18 and 40. On this national day of remembrance, we must ask ourselves about the reasons for this phenomenon. There are probably no simple answers. However, for the sake of the women in this country, we must try to understand and, above all, eliminate acts of aggression against women. Otherwise, we will have failed in our task if we cannot offer them the prospect of a generous society where they can develop their full potential.

As the Prime Minister of Canada said in a speech he gave last Thursday before the French Senate, and I quote:

We have managed to build in Canada a society that is pluralistic and fair, based on openness, tolerance, generosity and sharing.

If we do not try to put an end to this pervasive violence, we will undermine those foundations of our society. That is why our schools must teach young people respect for others, tolerance and fairness.

I hope that today Canadians will stop for a moment and consider what they can do to stop the progression of violence in any form, especially violence against women. We must never forget that tragic moment on December 6, 1989. We must continue the fight against violence in our society, and we must act now.

[English]

• (1420)

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

THE ESTIMATES, 1994-95

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES (B) AND (C)—
REPORT OF COMMITTEE PRESENTED AND PRINTED AS APPENDIX

Hon. C. William Doody: Honourable senators, I have the honour to present the tenth report of the Standing Senate Committee on National Finance, which deals with the Supplementary Estimates (B) and (C), laid before Parliament for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1995.

I ask that the report be printed as an appendix to the *Minutes of the Proceedings of the Senate* of this day.

The Hon. the Speaker: Is it agreed, honourable senators?

Hon. Senators: Agreed.

(For text of report, see today's Minutes of Proceedings of the Senate, Appendix, p. 623.)

The Hon. the Speaker: Honourable senators, when shall this report be taken into consideration?