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MT&T Technologies Inc. of Halifax for pioneering this system of electronic voting.

I hope that all members will take part in this experiment in direct democracy.

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### GASOLINE PRICES

**Mr. John Solomon (Regina—Lumsden):** Mr. Speaker, the price of gasoline has gone up again in Regina and other parts of Canada with no explanation. There have been no new taxes and the price of crude has declined from one year ago.

The price of gas jumped three cents a litre for no reason except to make oil companies richer. Energy consumers are angry and want an investigation into why they must pay more to line the pockets of big oil giants.

The government must put an end to the gouging at the pumps now. Canadians need an energy price review commission to encourage fair competitive pricing and to review monopoly pricing.

Last year Esso Canada made a profit of \$582 million and 75 per cent of that money went to the U.S. as dividends. Companies like Esso show little respect for the consumers in this country. Huge profits do not mean fair prices but higher prices. Why? We want to know why.

The government must put an end to this outrageous practice of price gouging. I look forward to seeing what action the government will take on this matter.

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[Translation]

### DEMOCRACY

**Mr. Nick Discepola (Vaudreuil):** Mr. Speaker, I was relieved to hear the Leader of the Opposition yesterday make a commitment to respect the democratic process guaranteeing everyone the right to express themselves freely on our country's future. He said that the last 30 years have led us to a dead end. What a gross misstatement! In the last 30 years, Canada and Quebec have enjoyed the highest rate of economic growth and the highest standard of living of all OECD countries.

Just imagine what this country would be like if instead of splitting up, we joined forces. It remains to be seen whether Mr. Parizeau shares the ideas of his friend and ally in opposition regarding the democratic process. It is ironic that the Bloc leader tries to pass himself off as a champion of democracy when his own troops and his separatist confederate threaten to boycott and retaliate against any group or institution daring to question their independence plans.

That is a very strange conception of freedom of expression!

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• (1415)

[English]

### OCEANS DAY

**Mr. Francis G. LeBlanc (Cape Breton Highlands—Canso):** Mr. Speaker, today is Oceans Day. First declared on June 8, 1992 during the Rio earth summit, Oceans Day is meant to remind us and challenge us to become better caretakers of our oceans' environment.

Regardless of where you live, marine life and oceans are important to every Canadian. Not only does what happens in the marine environment affect us but what we do affects it.

No better example of this exists than in my riding where the sea is an economic lifeline for many coastal communities. This lifeline has been placed under considerable strain over the past few years.

Oceans Day serves to remind us that individuals can make a difference through the many projects, exhibits and conferences which are taking place today across the country.

I encourage all members of the House to help raise public awareness among our constituents about the importance of oceans to our lives.

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### CANADIAN SPECIAL SERVICE MEDAL

**Mr. Art Hanger (Calgary Northeast):** Mr. Speaker, the degree of danger and very real battle conditions that our brave men and women of the armed forces are facing in the former Yugoslavia is a source of both worry and pride.

We feel pride when we recognize our maple leaf emblazoned on the uniforms of those brave people who are putting their lives on the line to represent Canada and to bring a modicum of justice and humanity to that desperate part of the world.

Despite the obvious bravery of our troops and the harsh battle conditions they can be exposed to, we have not chosen to honour our troops with the Canadian Special Service Medal. This medal was authorized in 1984 and was created to recognize the service of Canadians in special circumstances. It has been awarded to Canadian troops serving with NATO in western Europe and has not been extended to our brave men and women in the former Yugoslavia.

I pray that the minister of defence will realize the oversight of the department in not extending this award and will take steps to bestow recognition as that recognition has most definitely been earned.