

Commonwealth, has passed much of the genius of the British people; Shakespeare, the concept of parliamentary government, the rule of law, the beauty and openness of the Anglican form of the Christian religion and, in reverse, in recent years, the devotion of the Muslim religion, the discipline of the Hindu religion and the honour of the Sikh religion. We have all learned from our association with the Commonwealth that we are part of a larger world, that we share a history with the people of Bombay, Papua New Guinea and Barbados.

As has already been said, if this institution is to survive another 60 years, we must strengthen official development assistance. The Commonwealth must be far more effective than it has been as the voice of the poor and the dispossessed. To do that we must strengthen programs of public education and interchange.

In that regard, and before I close, let me make reference to the Commonwealth Games, coming as I do from Victoria. We have a special interest in the 1994 Commonwealth Games. We are very proud we have been chosen to host those games. The Commonwealth Games are the friendly games. They draw together people from this great institution. If they are to be in keeping with the true value that is said to be that of the Commonwealth, we must do what we can to see that the occasion is used to bring people together, to learn the realities of people's lives, to see that they are not just the best ever games for Canadian athletes, but the best ever games for athletes in every country of the Commonwealth.

As has been noted, the Canadian government and the Commonwealth have provided some leadership in trying to expand the vision not just of the Commonwealth Games, but of the Commonwealth itself through the establishment of a working group chaired by Roy McMurtry. I suggest to the government that it must look carefully at the requests that come for funding from that organization for programs recommended unanimously by that group. The government has been generous in its funding of the francophonie games and the work leading up to it. It must have the same approach to that of the Commonwealth Games.

We join with all parties in urging that all peoples of the Commonwealth give this day the honour it deserves.

### *Routine Proceedings*

• (1520)

[*Translation*]

## PETITIONS

### PARLIAMENT HILL

**Mr. Guy Saint-Julien (Abitibi):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to table pursuant to Standing Order 36, a petition from residents of Vassan who insist that the Government of Canada drop its plans for the development of Parliament Hill, which would cost \$68 million and involve building a parking garage and shopping centre under the Parliament Buildings, and that the government acknowledge the need for preserving the natural environment and historical character of the Parliament Buildings and Parliament Hill in Ottawa.

### CANADIAN MILITARY INTERVENTION IN THE PERSIAN GULF

**Mr. Maurice Tremblay (Lotbinière):** Mr. Speaker, I appreciate this opportunity, pursuant to Standing Order 36, to present a petition with more than 275 signatures, mainly from residents of Daveluyville who emphasize Canada's reputation as a peacekeeper. They ask that Canada put a stop to its military intervention in the Persian Gulf and are in favour of a negotiated settlement including the Palestinian question.

[*English*]

### THE SENATE

**Mr. René Soetens (Ontario):** Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 36 I have two petitions I would like to present today. The first petition, signed by quite a number of constituents from my riding, is concerned with the Senate. The petitioners comment as follows. Knowing that the Senate was established in 1867 for the purposes of representation of the regions of Canada and providing a medium for sober second thought, and that the Senate now performs no useful function, is completely partisan and has proven after many efforts to be impossible to reform, your petitioners humbly pray and call upon Parliament to abolish the Senate outright.

### FOOD AND DRUG REGULATIONS

**Mr. René Soetens (Ontario):** Mr. Speaker, the second petition, signed by again many of my constituents including many from the east end of the city of Toronto, are concerned about the impact of various contents of food on those people with allergies. The petitioners say that