

[*Translation*]

VIOLENCE IN MONTREAL

Mr. Guy Ricard (Laval): Mr. Speaker, I rise today in this House to deplore yesterday's tragic incident in Montreal's École polytechnique.

I rise today, Mr. Speaker, not because two of my children were in the building when the shooting took place, and I had to wait late through the night before I could know whether they were all right, but to condemn that violence, that sadistic slaughter of innocent students.

Mr. Speaker, I spent a terrible night waiting. But what must have been the anguish for the victims' parents!

When are we going as a government to do something to control violence? When are we going to force broadcasters to ban TV violence? When are we going to remove from store counters the toys that incite violence, especially at this time of year?

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my deepest sympathies to the aggrieved families and to offer my best wishes of prompt recovery to those students injured in that savage attack.

* * *

TRAGEDY IN MONTREAL

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, today, Canada is in mourning. All Canadians were horrified upon hearing the news of the senseless shooting that took the lives of 14 young women in Montreal yesterday.

Our hearts go out to the parents and friends of the victims of this terrible tragedy, and on behalf of the Canadian people and all members of this House, I wish to extend our sincere condolences.

We also sympathize with the suffering and shock of the young men and women who were wounded during this terrible incident, especially those who are now patients in hospitals in Montreal's metropolitan area.

On behalf of all members of this House, I have transmitted our condolences to Mr. Louis Courville, acting director general of the École Polytechnique of Montreal.

Tributes

I have also asked that flags on the Parliament Buildings and on all federal buildings in Quebec be flown at half-staff.

Today we all share the same feelings of sadness and indignation, offer one of the most cruel criminal acts in our history. These killings are particularly barbaric because the gunman selected women as his victims.

[*English*]

Why this brutal slaughter? Why this vengeful act against innocent young women? Why such violence in a society that considers itself civilized and compassionate?

This senseless criminal act is a grim reminder of the vulnerability of our society, its imperfections and of the precariousness of life itself. It is indeed a national tragedy.

I speak for all Canadians, I believe, in expressing our deepest sympathy for the families, relatives and friends of these young people who lives have been so brutally ended just as they showed such splendid promise.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Speaker, united in sorrow and sympathy, Canadians mourn the death of 14 fellow Canadians, the flower of a generation, cruelly crushed in the springtime of their lives.

Mr. Marcel Prud'homme (Saint-Denis): Mr. Speaker, yesterday 14 of our most promising young Quebecers lost their lives at the hands of a half-crazed individual. More than a dozen others were wounded, most of them seriously. This is the worst catastrophe we have known since the last war.

This tragedy is horrifying, not only because there were so many victims but also because they were young people, working very hard to acquire the skills that will shape tomorrow's society.

In addition to dedicating several years of their lives to their academic training, these young women were unique in having opted for a non-traditional profession. That in itself reflects their courage and their determination to participate fully in the development and emancipation of Quebec society.

Our thoughts, our prayers and our sincere condolences go out to the families of these students whose lives were so abruptly cut short. Try as we may, we can never fully fathom the suffering of parents who be-