

I call on the government—

Madam Deputy Speaker: The hon. member's time has expired.

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CANADIAN YOUTH SERVICE CORPS

Mr. Patrick Boyer (Etobicoke—Lakeshore): Madam Speaker, several years ago the government cancelled the Katimavik program and said at that time that a new and better program would come along in its place for Canadian youth.

I believe now is the time to initiate something that could be called the Canadian Youth Service Corps. It would be a new program that would recruit Canadians from age 18 and upward on a voluntary basis for one year of service to the nation.

This would be an opportunity to serve in perhaps one of several different streams: for example, environmental, military, social help to seniors and Canadians with disabilities and community service.

Canadian youth participating in such a youth corps would move to different parts of Canada and work with Canadians from different parts of our country. In the course of giving service they would learn both about Canada and about themselves.

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PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

Mr. Jim Karpoff (Surrey North): Madam Speaker, Canadians and particularly seniors have a continuing concern about the price of prescription drugs.

Green Shield has documented the dramatic increase in the price of drugs averaging 11.4 per cent a year since the extension of drug patents in 1987 to the multinational drug companies. This increase threatens our provincial drug plans and our entire health care system.

Even the federal minister of health stated recently that such increases, which are well above the rate of inflation, would kill the health care system.

Who should Canadians hold responsible for this dramatic increase in drug prices? The Conservatives, for agreeing to the extension of the patent protection on

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behalf of the multinational drug companies as a pre-condition to the free trade deal, and Judy Erola, a former Liberal minister of consumer affairs, the chief spokesperson and lobbyist for the multinational drug companies.

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[*Translation*]

NATIONAL NURSES WEEK

Mrs. Lise Bourgault (Argenteuil—Papineau): Madam Speaker, I too would like to remind members of this House and the general public that this is National Nurses Week. The theme "Nurses: Allies for Change" shows the key role that nurses play in looking into the system and changing and strengthening it. The physical, mental and social well-being of all Canadians depends on this system. Nurses are committed to meeting the challenge of applying the principles set forth in the Canada Health Act, to maintaining effective, affordable health services and to renewing partnerships in the field of health.

• (1110)

I call on my colleagues to join me in congratulating Canada's nurses.

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MONTREAL'S 350TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

Mr. Alfonso Gagliano (Saint-Léonard): Madam Speaker, I have the honour and pleasure, as a Canadian, a Quebecer and the member for Saint-Léonard, to wish all Montrealers a happy anniversary celebration. On May 16, 1642—historians do not agree on the exact date—the French founded what was to become one of the greatest cities in America. In the past 350 years, Montreal has become a leading centre of culture and economic vitality for Quebec, Canada and America.

Despite the temporary economic difficulties that the city is going through, I hope that all members of this House join me in wishing Montreal and all its citizens very happy 350th anniversary celebrations.

Bonne fête, Montréal. Happy anniversary, Montreal. Buon compleanno, Montreal.