

[*Translation*]

CANADIAN AWARD FOR BUSINESS EXCELLENCE

Mr. André Plourde (Kamouraska—Rivière-du-Loup): Mr. Speaker, I welcome this opportunity today to pay tribute to some of the best entrepreneurs in this country. We are honoured by the presence in our gallery of 22 winners of the Canadian award for business excellence. These people proudly represent Canadian companies outstanding for their innovative approach and firm commitment to the highest possible production standards.

These Canadian men and women are proof that with vision, commitment and determination, we can meet the challenges of an increasingly competitive world economy and come out winners. They are setting standards for a new era in business in this country, an era that will prove that Canadian businesses can compete with the best in the world and come out on top. Mr. Speaker, we are proud of these people, and I know that all my colleagues will join me in offering them our sincere congratulations.

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[*English*]

VISIBLE MINORITIES

Hon. Warren Allmand (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce): Mr. Speaker, there is growing racism in this country and the government must show more leadership in fighting against it. There will be an excellent opportunity to do this because the Employment Equity Act passed in 1986 requires a parliamentary review after five years and that review will start shortly.

The purpose of the Employment Equity Act is to provide more jobs for visible minorities and other target groups but it has not been successful. The percentage of employment of visible minorities and firms covered by the act has barely changed since 1986. In order to make this law effective, the government must make the following changes; first, put more effective sanctions in the law to enforce affirmative action; second, make the law applicable to all federal departments and Crown corporations; third, make the law applicable to all firms with 25 or more employees rather than 100 employees.

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Furthermore, governments and political parties must appoint more officials and run more candidates who are visible minorities.

Fine words and good intentions are not enough. Political and social justice demand that we take effective affirmative action now before this country is overwhelmed with racial and social unrest.

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[*Translation*]

MADRID CONFERENCE

Mr. Guy Ricard (Laval-Ouest): Mr. Speaker, yesterday in Madrid, Spain, a conference was launched to negotiate peace in the Middle East. Several countries are participating, including the Soviet Union and the United States. All eyes are on Israel, but there is also the fact of the status of Jews in Syria. About 4,000 men, women and children are being held by a regime that has no respect for the concept of human rights. I ask the Canadian government to support the peace talks negotiations at this conference and to put pressure on the Syrian authorities to allow Jews in that country the same freedom to travel, speak and live in their country as their fellow citizens.

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[*English*]

OZONE DEPLETION

Ms. Lynn Hunter (Saanich—Gulf Islands): Mr. Speaker, today is Hallowe'en and a good day to remind this government that the sun's rays are becoming increasingly dangerous and not just to Count Dracula.

Dracula never goes outside any more, not since the recent UN scientific report warned that the protective ozone shield is disappearing faster than was forecast.

But help is on the way in the form of CFC sucking vampire units. Development and distribution of Canadian technology to combat ozone destruction can give Canadian's anaemic economic a much needed boost.

One Canadian company estimates markets for vampire units to be worth over \$2 billion. Recovering used CFCs will create local employment, help save the ozone and protect people's health.