

S. O. 31

UNEMPLOYMENT

Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry—Prescott—Russell): Mr. Speaker, the unemployment rate in May 1992 was 11.2 per cent, up 2 per cent from last month. This is the highest unemployment rate since November 1984.

In my own region in eastern Ontario the rate has gone up by three-tenths of one per cent over one month and 2,000 more people are unemployed this month than last month.

Here is what the government had to say about unemployment on October 25, 1991 when the Minister of Finance said—and I know it is unfair to quote him, using his own words—as follows:

I ask the hon. member to consider the fact that the merchandise trade balance is up, housing starts are up—on an annualized basis and unemployment rates are coming down. The indicators to which the hon. member refers, such as bankruptcies, have a certain amount of lag time. I would ask him to take that into consideration.

Things are going better.

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CATHOLIC TEACHERS' FEDERATION

Mr. A. H. Harry Brightwell (Perth—Wellington—Waterloo): Mr. Speaker, at this time in our unity debate and at a time when Canadians who are modest and self-effacing run themselves down quite a bit, I thought I would read a message from my riding office about something that is happening in Canada.

My assistant just talked to a teacher from St. Patrick's school in Sebringville, Ontario. He tells me that the Catholic Teachers' Federation is celebrating Canada Day by having all school children in Catholic schools across Canada, hundreds and thousands of schools and thousands of students, sing *O Canada* at twelve noon. This was on Tuesday, June 2. Then they are going to shake hands, hug, and generally celebrate the joy of living in this great nation.

My staff member ends by saying: "I don't know if anybody in Ottawa knows this, but I think it is great". Until now I don't know if anybody in Ottawa did know of it, but I too think it is great.

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY

Mr. Lee Clark (Brandon—Souris): Mr. Speaker, today we celebrate World Environment Day, a day for all Canadians to demonstrate their commitment to a healthy environment.

More than at any previous time in our history we are focusing our attention and efforts on the environment. Most of us know that our future, both our physical well-being and our economic prosperity, depends on a healthy environment. We know too that our success depends on working together to achieve a common goal.

That is what we are hoping for at the earth summit in Rio de Janeiro this week and next. Heads of government and over 30,000 people in total are attending this important conference at which the Canadian delegation will be playing a leading role.

The green plan, Canada's national agenda for protecting and restoring the environment, has been suggested by the United Nations as a model for other countries to follow in designing their own strategies. The partnership principle which is achieving positive results in Canada can be made to work on a global level as well.

If we work together we can make a difference.

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CHILD EXPLOITATION

Mr. Al Horning (Okanagan Centre): Mr. Speaker, one of the worst crimes that faces our country is that of child exploitation.

Next week Mrs. Monica Rainey, the head of a group called CACE, Citizens Against Child Exploitation, will be in Ottawa to present over 10,000 signatures of support from my constituency of Okanagan Centre.

People in a position of trust who exploit children should never be allowed to return to those positions again. Our laws need to be changed to make that happen.

Mrs. Rainey will be meeting with various ministers and MPs from all sides of the House. I would urge all members of Parliament to offer their support to her in her efforts to put an end to this terrible abuse of children.