

S. O. 31

Jeffrey was a remarkable man who gave of himself for the betterment of the larger community at every turn. He was founder of the charity, Friday's Child. He was an active volunteer at Bloorview Children's Hospital taking disabled children on trips and to events. He was involved with the B'nai Brith as well, acting as the chair of its community volunteer services and vice-president of the Toronto Freedom Lodge.

Jeffrey touched many people's lives and will be sorely missed. He was an example to all Canadians. I am sure all members of this House will want to join me in sending our condolences to his family and friends in both Calgary and Toronto.

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PROFESSIONAL INSTITUTE OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE

Ms. Marlene Catterall (Ottawa West, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, back in 1920 the Professional Institute of the Public Service of Canada was founded as an organization to protect the interests of the professional public servants affected by a complete government reorganization which was going on at that time.

Today as the institute celebrates its 75th anniversary, members are still fortunate to have the support of their institute as our government goes through yet another period of major change.

PIPS members are the biologists who help protect our wildlife. They are the commerce officers who study Canada's economic development. They are the veterinarians who ensure that Canadians get wholesome meat products on our tables. They are the engineers and architects who make sure that our roads, bridges and air terminals are safe.

As elected representatives it is important for us to recognize and appreciate the excellent work these federal public service employees do to make Canada a better place to live in and to congratulate PIPS on its 75 years of dedicated service to its members and to Canada.

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[Translation]

BROME—MISSISQUOI

Mr. Patrick Gagnon (Bonaventure—Îles-de-la-Madeleine, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, next Monday, February 13, the voters in the riding of Brome—Missisquoi will choose their next member of Parliament.

In the information pamphlet that he has had printed and distributed for his campaign, the Bloc candidate for Brome—Missisquoi says, and I quote: "The Bloc Quebecois must keep its status as the official opposition in order to hold on to real power in Ottawa. Right now, there is only one seat between the Bloc Quebecois and the Reform Party. If we lose Brome—Missisquoi, we could lose our power in Ottawa".

By linking his possible defeat to the loss of his party's status as the official opposition in the House of Commons, the Bloc candidate is not presenting the facts accurately. Even if the Liberal Party of Canada wins the two by-elections now under way in Quebec, and I am sure they will, that will in no way change the Bloc's status as the official opposition.

Only by electing the Liberal candidate on February 13 will the voters of Brome—Missisquoi finally acquire real power in Ottawa.

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REGIONAL CONSULTATIONS ON QUEBEC SOVEREIGNTY

Mr. Pierre Brien (Témiscamingue, BQ): Mr. Speaker, today marked the beginning of the regional consultations on Quebec sovereignty.

The Bloc Quebecois is proud to be associated with this highly democratic exercise in which all Quebecers, whatever their origin, their language or their political affiliation, will have the opportunity to discuss, ask questions and obtain information about the draft bill on Quebec sovereignty.

The discussions that will take place throughout Quebec, and that will include both the elderly and young Quebecers, will enrich the democratic debate on the sovereignty question and extend it to all groups and levels of Quebec society.

It is in this context of exchange that we applaud the courageous and pragmatic decision of the Greek, Italian and Jewish communities to take part in the process. They deserve our utmost respect and admiration.

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[English]

DANGEROUS OFFENDERS

Ms. Val Meredith (Surrey—White Rock—South Langley, Ref.): Mr. Speaker, on January 6 Melanie Carpenter was working alone at a tanning salon in a busy mall in Surrey, B.C. In the middle of the afternoon it now appears likely that Fernand Auger entered the business and kidnapped her. Driving near the town of Yale, Auger pulled into an access road near the Fraser River where he sexually assaulted Melanie. Then with her hands tied behind her back he cowardly and brutally stabbed her to death.

● (1415)

Auger solved one problem by killing himself, but many questions remain unanswered. He was a convicted sex offender who the Correctional Service of Canada deemed to be a high risk offender. However, despite this prognosis the law required that Auger be released.