

OCEANS DAY

Hon. Charles Caccia (Davenport): Mr. Speaker, today, Oceans Day, we celebrate our oceans, the source of life on our planet. First declared in Rio, Oceans Day inspires and challenges us to become caretakers of our ocean environment.

Oceans supply the world's people with more animal protein than any other source. The sea has given us anti-leukemia drugs from sea sponges, bone graft materials from coral, and diagnostic chemicals from red algae. The ocean is the economic lifeline for coastal communities and fish workers by the millions.

For this reason we must keep in mind that human activities have a direct impact on coastal waters. For example, activities which take place inland account for nearly 80 per cent of marine pollution. Inshore dams can cause declining coastal fisheries. Oil spills from ships are to be prevented.

For all these reasons we need to protect and appreciate our oceans.

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UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH

Mrs. Brenda Chamberlain (Guelph—Wellington): Mr. Speaker, the University of Guelph has embarked on a strategic planning process which will create the blueprint for its development into the next century.

The university's planning process allows for consultation with university and non-university participants. The eight task forces will study a number of issues, including identifying external factors, assessing its values and culture, and identifying the strengths and weaknesses of existing programs and resources.

The University of Guelph is an important part of Guelph—Wellington. Its remarkable international reputation can only be enhanced by this process.

I congratulate the president of the university, Mordechai Rozanski, on this important initiative. This process will result in a clear vision of the values and the strengths of the university. It will prepare the staff and student body to meet the challenges of the 21st century.

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NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION WEEK

Mr. Bob Wood (Nipissing): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to have the opportunity this afternoon to commend the activities of National Transportation Week to the House.

• (1410)

As Canadians we are all aware of the major importance transportation has in the life of a nation that borders on three oceans and ranges across mountains, tundra, prairies and rolling countryside.

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On the export market 18 to 45 per cent of the price of Canadian primary products such as coal and forest products is transportation costs. For manufactured goods at least 5 per cent of the price is the result of transportation and in some cases that figure can be as high as 17 per cent. Domestically the cost of transporting goods is equally important. An estimated 40 per cent of provincial exports are sold in regions other than where they are produced.

Government and industry must work together to build the operational links that will ensure the seamless transportation systems that will do justice to the professionalism, dedication and hard work of the hundreds of thousands of men and women who keep our transportation systems running safely, efficiently and effectively.

Please join me in a salute to these Canadians workers during National Transportation Week '94.

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[Translation]

STATUS OF WOMEN

Mrs. Christiane Gagnon (Quebec): Mr. Speaker, the percentage of women in the labour force has been decreasing since 1990. Women between 15 and 24 are the main victims. The Minister of Human Resources Development claims that his Youth Service Corps will help turn the situation around by allowing participants to spend \$2,000 on child care when this money has already been earmarked for other purposes.

This measure discriminates against women since it is primarily women who have custody of children and nearly 60 per cent of these women live below the poverty line. Without a specific program to help them find jobs or go back to school, these women will not be able to get out of this intolerable situation. What is the government waiting for when it should be formulating a job-creation policy that takes these women's reality into account?

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[English]

TELEDEMOCRACY

Mr. Ted White (North Vancouver): Mr. Speaker, there is just one week to go before voting begins on referendum '94.

I am pleased to advise the House that secret PIN numbers have now been distributed to all registered voters and more than 700 high school students in the riding of North Vancouver, to all MPs and also to yourself, Mr. Speaker. I believe this will be the first secret vote by MPs on any issue other than the election of the Speaker of this House.

When we vote between June 15 and 20 we will be making history as we test a Canadian developed technology that could revolutionize democracy as we know it. I would like to thank