

S. O. 21

## NARCOTICS

## NATIONAL DRUG STRATEGY—SUPPORT FOR GOVERNMENT PROGRAM

**Mr. Geoff Wilson (Swift Current—Maple Creek):** Mr. Speaker, last fall the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) announced plans to deal with Canada's drug epidemic. This is a problem which affects in some way virtually every family in Canada, a problem which not only costs the nation millions in lost productivity, but also threatens the minds and lives of many Canadians. In combatting drug abuse the state clearly has a place in the classrooms, workrooms and boardrooms of the nation.

This week the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Mr. Epp) put forward a \$210 million five-year plan which will involve public education, drug and alcohol treatment and rehabilitation, law enforcement and control, and research efforts.

I congratulate the Prime Minister and the Minister of National Health and Welfare, first for recognizing that there is a drug crisis in Canada, second, for undertaking to educate all Canadians about the dangers of drug abuse and, third, for responding in a number of concrete ways; internationally through our consulates abroad, and domestically in co-operation with the provinces and community groups.

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## THE CONSTITUTION

## MEECH LAKE ACCORD

**Mr. Keith Penner (Cochrane—Superior):** Mr. Speaker, the aboriginal leaders of Canada and the people whom they represent feel betrayed by the Meech Lake Accord. They, too, have sought to have their distinct place in Canada recognized in our Constitution. Repeatedly, however, they have been rebuffed by fearful, hesitant Premiers who seek more power for themselves but are unwilling to share even a modest amount with others.

The second round of constitutional talks referred to in the Accord mentions fisheries, but aboriginal rights are left out. This is an omission of enormous proportions. The fishery and aboriginal rights are intimately related. I, therefore, urge the inclusion of aboriginal peoples and their rights on the second round agenda.

In the Yukon and Northwest Territories court action is under way against the Meech Lake Accord. To give every Premier a veto over the creation of new provinces is highly offensive to the Governments of the North and the northerners whom they represent.

● (1110)

Therefore I urge the deletion of this veto power over the creation of new provinces.

[Translation]

## EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

## NATIONAL UNITY—IMPACT OF VISIT BY PRESIDENT OF FRANCE—GOVERNMENT'S PERFORMANCE

**Mr. Clément M. Côté (Lac-Saint-Jean):** Mr. Speaker, earlier this week, I commented on President Mitterand's visit to Canada, and today, a few hours before he leaves this country, I would like to draw the attention of the House to the positive impact of this brief visit.

I want to point out the general approval surrounding the cordial welcome the President received. The unanimity of Canadians in this respect reflects the unity of this country.

As a Canadian, I am particularly happy to feel this unity, since all Canadians want to live in a united Canada. This country has not always been as united, but since we came to power in 1984, our Prime Minister has managed to create this climate of national unity, a fact of which Canadians are very proud.

In concluding, I would like to repeat what I said Tuesday, namely, that the positive impact of President Mitterand's visit will continue to make itself felt and that the prospects for a united Canada under Prime Minister Mulroney are very good indeed.

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[English]

## STATUS OF WOMEN

## INCREASED ENTRY TO PROFESSIONS

**Ms. Lynn McDonald (Broadview—Greenwood):** Mr. Speaker, Statistics Canada has just published some very encouraging material showing the important entry of women into the professions. There has been a great change in representation, especially in the professions of law and pharmacy. We welcome that change.

In the case of engineering the increase is in the order of 300 per cent. However, since the figure has only risen from 1 per cent to 3 per cent it is not very encouraging. We need to see more storming of these all-male bastions, these boys clubs in the engineering schools.

Canada can only be a great country if its people are well trained. We need the talents of all our people. Thus we welcome this important development of women moving into the professions.

We have to support concrete measures to see that this movement continues. I hope that it will be matched by the movement of native peoples, handicapped persons, and people of visible minorities so that we will have really fair representation and that, as a country, we will be able to employ the talents of all our people.