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United States, Japan, Korea, and members of the European Community.

The Canadian and international scientific community now await Canada's decision to help put it all together.

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[*Translation*]

NATIONAL UNITY

Mr. Gabriel Desjardins (Témiscamingue): Madam Speaker, allow me today to point out the important initiative taken by the Prime Minister of Canada in calling together the First Ministers of the country for a working meeting on Sunday evening to break the present constitutional deadlock.

Madam Speaker, need I remind you, as well as my colleagues and all Canadians, of the serious issues at stake, namely, national unity and Quebec's place in the Canadian federation.

The Prime Minister said recently that he wanted Quebec to have a place in the sun and I am sure that a few days before the June 23 deadline, all the First Ministers in Canada will join together to say yes to Quebec.

In any event, whatever comes of these discussions, no one will be able to accuse the Prime Minister of not having tried everything, done everything up to the last ounce of his energy, for national reconciliation.

Therefore let us hope that this meeting, which has been called "the last chance", will elicit understanding and goodwill from the dissenting provinces so that an agreement may be reached for the greater good of Quebec and Canada.

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[*English*]

THE ENVIRONMENT

Hon. Chas. L. Caccia (Davenport): Madam Speaker, at the recently concluded Bergen Conference in Norway entitled "Action for a Common Future", Canada with 33 other nations agreed to accelerate progress on reducing the use and emission of hazardous substances that are toxic, persistent, and bio-accumulative.

The ultimate aim is to phase out uses which cannot be adequately controlled, and by 1993 to set timetables for such phasing out for the protection of human and ecological health.

In addition, it was agreed that disposal at sea, whether by dumping or incineration of wastes, should not be allowed unless such disposal poses no threat to the marine environment in accordance with the London dumping convention.

It is good that Canada supported this message. But how can this government be taken seriously on new international commitments when it refuses to ratify old ones.

Once again we urge the government to regain credibility and ratify the Law of the Sea. Forty-three nations have done so but 60 are needed to bring the law into force.

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JUSTICE

Mr. Rob Nicholson (Niagara Falls): Madam Speaker, yesterday the Supreme Court of Canada upheld the law which makes it illegal to communicate, or appear to communicate, for the purposes of prostitution. I am pleased with this decision.

It sends a strong message that street solicitation for the purposes of prostitution is not to be tolerated. My very first statement in this House upon my election in 1984 was on this subject. It was an important concern to the people of Niagara Falls and I was pleased that our government brought in Bill C-49 which became law in 1985—no thanks to the NDP, I might add, who fought it all the way.

I can tell this House that this legislation has helped significantly. The street congestion, the noise, oral harassment of non-participants, and general detrimental effects on bystanders, especially children, made the bill necessary and yesterday's decision welcomed.

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[*Translation*]

CLOTHING INDUSTRY

Hon. André Ouellet (Papineau—Saint-Michel): Madam Speaker, in March, the Canadian International Trade Tribunal recommended the gradual reduction of Canadian tariffs on overseas textile imports for the benefit of