

Well-known stars will perform in Manitoba this weekend. We offer an impressive line-up of shows and events and we also have our joie de vivre.

This will be an opportunity to demonstrate how a small, rather isolated community can still be quite vigorous and willing to live and work with others.

* * *

[English]

PARTY AFFILIATION

Ms. Paddy Torsney (Burlington, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, I have here a letter written by the member of Parliament for New Westminster—Burnaby dated January 9, 1995 in which he writes:

There is only one kind of event that will motivate the government to take notice of what mainstream Canada wants—soaring Reform Party memberships.

A burgeoning “card carrying membership” is far more effective than protests, letter writing, petitions, or other traditional types of lobbying.

I know you will understand why this is true.

I do not know why it is true. It is a flagrant misuse of taxpayer supplied stationery and franking privileges. It totally misrepresents the impact of petitions, letters and our work here in this House. It certainly makes me wonder why the member stands up to present petitions.

To all Canadians, especially to my constituents, I will listen to their opinions, whether they have a party affiliation or not. All Canadians have the right to be heard. They should continue to sign petitions, write letters and call their members of Parliament. They have a right to provide input to our work in this House.

* * *

SENIOR MEN'S CURLING CHAMPIONSHIP

Mr. Bob Kilger (Stormont—Dundas, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, the member for Glengarry—Prescott—Russell and I wish to congratulate the senior men's team from the Cornwall Curling Club in my riding of Stormont—Dundas. This foursome represented the province of Ontario at the recent Canadian Senior Men's Curling Championships held in friendly and hospitable Saint John, New Brunswick.

Lead George Dolejsi, second Keith MacGregor, third Thom Pritchard, the lone Glengarian on the team, and Skip Bill Dickie proved to be the pride of Ontario and Cornwall by winning the coveted Canadian Senior Men's Curling Championship.

• (1410)

We commend them for their effort and dedication to this popular sport that enabled them to win such a prestigious national championship.

S. O. 31

[Translation]

We are proud of them and we congratulate them.

* * *

REFERENDUM ON QUEBEC SOVEREIGNTY

Mr. Michel Bellehumeur (Berthier—Montcalm, BQ): Mr. Speaker, results of the Léger & Léger poll published today clearly show that a No vote in the Quebec referendum means the exact same thing to English Canadians as it does to Quebec sovereignists.

Far from being a bargaining chip, a No vote is construed as a No to any constitutional change and any form of renewed federalism. The poll found that scarcely 10 per cent of respondents were not opposed to a special status for Quebec. In fact, two thirds did not recognize Quebec as a distinct nation.

The poll also shows that half of those surveyed feel that Canada should recognize Quebec as a sovereign nation should the Yes side win. In addition, some 58 per cent of Canadians are in favour of maintaining economic ties with an independent Quebec. Beyond the calculated threats of politicians, Canadians are saying clearly that they want to build a partnership that is sound and productive for everyone.

* * *

[English]

IMMIGRATION AND REFUGEE BOARD

Mr. Art Hanger (Calgary Northeast, Ref.): Mr. Speaker, the Immigration and Refugee Board is out of control.

In January, Boujan Inthavong was released from prison in B.C. and ordered deported because of his role in a brutal gang murder. Knowing the system, he got himself a lawyer and delayed his deportation by making a refugee claim. Unbelievably, the IRB gave refugee status to this dangerous criminal in a 15 minute hearing. Now he is here forever.

The IRB completely disregarded his crimes. But even more unbelievable is the stated refusal of the minister of immigration to intervene and stop this ridiculous refugee claim which has made a mockery of justice and a laughing stock of the taxpayers. He had the power to halt the hearing before it got started but decided not to. He went on record to say that he would not even attempt to overturn the decision.

Canadians are used to the stupidity of the IRB, but for the minister who refused to act when he had every legal right and responsibility is itself nothing short of criminal.

The Speaker: Colleagues, I would urge all of us in our statements under Standing Order 31 to be very judicious in our choice of words as we are coming very close to attacking one another as members. I would appeal to all of you to look at the