

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Wednesday, June 8, 1988

The House met at 2 p.m.

Prayers

STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S. O. 21

[English]

WOMEN

SEXUAL HARASSMENT

Mrs. Lucie Pépin (Outremont): Mr. Speaker, last May the results of a Rhode Island survey conducted among 1,700 teenagers shocked Canadians and Americans alike when nearly a quarter of the boys and a sixth of the girls said that it was all right for a man to force a woman to have sex if he has spent money on her. It was also revealed in the U.S. study that 50 per cent of those young people believe a woman who walks alone at night is asking to be raped.

● (1405)

[Translation]

These results did not surprise Joan Steer who was aware of another study done in Toronto, which suggests that many adults do not consider "date rape" or sexual harassment in the workplace as real crimes.

Despite all the recent efforts to change attitudes to sexual assault and harassment, lack of information and ignorance remain the most crucial problem among young people. Mr. Speaker, we absolutely must inform teen-age boys and girls in order to change their attitudes towards violence and end rampant sexism for generations to come.

[English]

Yesterday the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Mr. Epp) promised more studies on the causes of wife battering and family abuse. There are many studies available. Why not speak out now through the media to teach and to offer hope to women looking for help by giving them the numbers of people to contact? I call on the Government to honour the recommendation of many of the studies and to awaken public awareness to avoid the perpetuation of sexual assault and family violence.

[Translation]

ENTREPRENEURS

TRIBUTE TO JEAN-GUY COTNOIR AND ROB METKA

Mr. Gabriel Desjardins (Témiscamingue): Mr. Speaker, on Sunday, June 5, the Rouyn-Noranda Regional Chamber of Commerce held its first Prisma gala to highlight the strength of our enterprising spirit.

Jean-Guy Cotnoir, a well-known personality in the region, won the award in the "builder" category. His name is synonymous with success, determination and fighting spirit. The head of a large, flourishing transport company that he built himself over the last few decades, Jean-Guy Cotnoir has been deeply involved over the years in the social and economic development of our community and in many charitable works.

In the "prospective" category, Rob Metka of Noranda Minerals won the grand prize. Originally from Saskatchewan, this young engineer now heads the construction of one of the largest technological challenges in the world, a sulfuric acid plant to be built in Rouyn-Noranda at an estimated cost of \$125 million.

Messrs. Cotnoir and Metka, thank you for your generous contribution to our community and congratulations to the Rouyn-Noranda Regional Chamber of Commerce for this good initiative!

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EMPLOYMENT

EMPLOYMENT PLANNING PROJECTS INSPECTION POLICY

Ms. Marion Dewar (Hamilton Mountain): Mr. Speaker, the federal Government recently decided to take a more flexible approach to the monitoring of Canadian Jobs Strategy projects. This decision will undoubtedly add to the abuse that already exists under this system.

[English]

The focus of the Canadian Jobs Strategy, the provision of training through private-sector training programs, creates an urgent need for a comprehensive monitoring policy. Private-sector training courses often provide job-specific, non-portable skills. Without effective and comprehensive monitoring, it is unrealistic to expect that employees will receive broad, basic skills training.