

HEALTH

INTRODUCTION OF ANTI-SMOKING LEGISLATION

Ms. Sheila Copps (Hamilton East): Mr. Speaker, it was only a few short weeks ago that we heard the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Mr. Epp) wax eloquent about what he called the toughest anti-smoking legislation in the western world. He was going to introduce a clean air environment for federal employees. He was going to introduce restrictions and a ban on advertising.

However, what do we now hear through the grapevine? Unfortunately the Minister felt the heat, and he is apparently considering getting out of the kitchen. The Minister says that he does not know whether he will proceed with the legislation because he is getting too much heat from the back-benches of the Conservative Party.

I want to tell him that we on this side of the House feel that anti-smoking legislation has been a long time coming and that he should continue with the legislation.

[Translation]

I should like to tell him that if he is not prepared to stand the heat generated by the political issue which non-smokers' rights have become, we are prepared to do just that and we ask that he table forthwith the anti-smoking legislation instead of heeding the advice of his Party's back-benchers who are dead set against such a measure.

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[English]

HISTORIC EVENTS

SEVENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF FIRST ITALIAN CHURCH IN HAMILTON

Mrs. Shirley Martin (Lincoln): Mr. Speaker, last night I had the pleasure of joining with 1,100 Canadians of Italian heritage in celebrating the seventy-fifth anniversary of St. Anthony of Padua Church, the first Italian church in Hamilton, Ontario. It was established to serve the spiritual needs of immigrants from Italy working in the steel mills of Hamilton. Those steel mills are still contributing to the growth of our area as are the descendants of those first immigrants.

• (1405)

The Italian community brings a rich, cultural heritage to Canada of which it can be justly proud. But first and foremost, Mr. Speaker, these people are Canadians and this was amply demonstrated last evening. Yesterday's tribute was not only to St. Anthony's Parish but to the great contribution that Canadians of Italian heritage have made and continue to make, not only to the growth of the Hamilton area but, indeed, to all of Canada. I am pleased to join in this tribute.

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[Translation]

PUBLIC SERVICE

THE LATE AILEEN MANION

Mrs. Marion Dewar (Hamilton Mountain): Mr. Speaker, yesterday Canada grieved at the tragic loss of an extraordinary woman, a woman who worked steadfastly for the rights and dignity of Canadian working men and women. Aileen Manion, who was the first woman elected to the Executive Committee of the Public Service Alliance of Canada, died yesterday at her home here in Ottawa.

[English]

In her role as vice-president of the Public Service Alliance, Aileen was personally involved in the struggle for equal pay for work of equal value, presenting her union's first equal pay case to the Human Rights Commission. Ms. Manion devoted long hours to issues faced by her union members and was instrumental in establishing educational programs for union representatives.

Her loss will be deeply felt by all of us in public service and by the working people whose causes she championed.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of all Members of this House, I would like to extend our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Ms. Manion's family and friends.

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[English]

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

ACID RAIN—CONDEMNATION OF UNITED STATES REPORT

Mr. Stan Darling (Parry Sound—Muskoka): Mr. Speaker, in the wake of the National Acid Precipitation Assessment Program report issued in the United States last week, I call upon all Canadians to demonstrate outrage and disappointment with its content. To echo our own Minister of the Environment (Mr. McMillan), the report is incomplete and unacceptable to a fault. Fortunately, there are many U.S. politicians with vision and verve who continue to strive toward acid rain abatement.

In a letter addressed to me on September 9, Congressman Robert C. Smith of New Hampshire said that over 140 members of the U.S. House of Representatives are calling for a reauthorization of the Clean Air Act of 1987. In addition, the Chairman of the U.S. House Science, Space and Technology Subcommittee on Natural Resources is enthusiastic to have our own Special Committee on Acid Rain appear to present Canada's case.

It seems the life-threatening depletion of the earth's ozone layer could be the best friend acid rain abatement ever had.