

This mother of four famous children, and grandmother of four, drives her own Land Rover, and can fire a gun with skill and precision. She is Commander-in-Chief of Britain's armed forces and Head of the Church of England.

As the ruler of 49 Commonwealth countries, she attends 400 engagements a year before the eyes of many thousands of grateful admirers.

She is the world's greatest and most beloved diplomat. On this, her sixtieth birthday, we send best wishes for a long and fruitful life.

God save the Queen! Long may she reign!

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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[Translation]

THE ECONOMY

REDUCTION IN BANK RATE

Mr. Guy Ricard (Laval): Mr. Speaker, last Friday the U.S. Federal Reserve announced a one-half point drop in the bank rate, from 7 to 6.5 per cent, its lowest level since May 1978.

This development will bring about further reductions in Canada, where the bank rate has been declining in the last few weeks.

The reduction in the bank rate in the U.S. will certainly have an impact, since last Friday, the Bank of Canada already announced a further reduction in the bank rate, from 9.33 per cent to 9.23 per cent.

Furthermore, the Bank of Montreal has announced a one-quarter point reduction in all mortgage rates.

We have good reason to be optimistic, Mr. Speaker, and to believe that confidence is growing again in Canada after so many years of confrontation and provocation under the previous Liberal Government.

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● (1410)

[English]

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

BIG RIDEAU LAKE—OPPOSITION TO HOUSEBOAT FLEET PROPOSAL

Hon. Chas. L. Caccia (Davenport): Mr. Speaker, the Minister of the Environment (Mr. McMillan) should reject the application by Three Buoys Limited to put a fleet of 57 houseboats on Big Rideau Lake. At a time when development along the shore of Big Rideau Lake is carefully regulated

because of a growing pollution problem, it is not acceptable to approve such an operation.

Residents and users of Big Rideau Lake do not want this development. Canadians in general reject overdevelopment in national parks. Whether mountains or waterways the same principles apply: overcrowding means less enjoyment of the amenities, and the likelihood that irreversible damage will be done to the environment. The Minister of the Environment has the authority in this case. He should listen to the people affected by this proposal and put an end to the uncertainty by rejecting the proposal itself.

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[Translation]

NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK

IMPORTANCE OF VOLUNTARY ORGANIZATIONS

Mrs. Lise Bourgault (Argenteuil—Papineau): Mr. Speaker, today is the first day of National Volunteer Week. Across Canada, special events and announcements will reflect the economic and social impact the volunteer sector has on our daily lives.

Mr. Speaker, hundreds of volunteers are working in various fields of social, cultural, economic and sports activity, helping the needy and supporting local groups.

Mr. Speaker, the volunteer concept is so important and so widespread that our society could not function normally were it to disappear.

I fervently hope that our Government will set up a special committee, to determine how to provide effective assistance and support for our volunteer organizations and to identify their special needs.

Finally, I want to offer my sincere thanks to all volunteers, and especially to those in my riding of Argenteuil—Papineau for their tireless dedication in our 53 municipalities.

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ENERGY

INQUIRY WHY PRICE OF GAS IN MONTREAL IS NOT THE SAME AS PRICE IN BOSTON

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton—Melville): Mr. Speaker, in February the regular price of gas in Montreal was 58.9 cents a litre, which represents an increase of one-half cent since January. In Boston, however, the price of gas over the same period was 40.2 cents a litre, representing a drop of 1.2 cents a litre since January.

Mr. Speaker, this means there is a 50 per cent difference between Boston and Montreal. In Boston, 40 cents a litre and in Montreal nearly 60 cents a litre.