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and officially launched the composting system set up by the students.

I would like to draw your attention more particularly to the work of Environnement Jeunesse, ENJEU, which makes students more aware of and educates them about the environment in Quebec. I was delighted and inspired by their commitment and the projects they have started. They have convinced me of the need to provide strong support for all youth initiatives.

[English]

In a time when we are desperate for more opportunities and initiatives for youth, Collège de Bois de Boulogne has succeeded in creating new and innovative ways to involve its students and enhance their awareness of the issues.

This demonstrates that with perseverance and commitment success is possible. Projects such as these are great achievements and should serve as an example for all our youth to follow.

I applaud the college administrators, the private sector and the community for making this idea a reality and I urge my fellow colleagues to encourage such initiatives.

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SOCIAL SECURITY

Mr. John Finlay (Oxford): Mr. Speaker, I rise today to inform this House of meetings I hosted with regard to the social security review.

Residents in my riding had three opportunities to make their views known on the changes they feel would help to modernize our social security network.

Today I was able to present a report on behalf of my constituents to the Minister of Human Resources Development. The minister has assured all members that our constituents' opinions are important to this process, and I ask the hon. members opposite to stop characterizing such meetings as smoke screens to hide something which they suggest has already been decided. The people of Canada may conclude that the opposition is out to torpedo the work that is being done through these public consultations.

● (1405)

In closing, I want to thank the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Human Resources Development for speaking at my public meeting and for listening to the concerns of my constituents.

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[Translation]

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Gaston Péloquin (Brome—Missisquoi): The Supreme Court decision handed down yesterday with regard to telecommunications did not surprise anyone in Quebec. For the third time since 1993, Quebec is having powers in the area of

communications torn away by the federal government. After broadcasting and cable television, Quebec is now losing control over telephone companies, control which is essential to the province's social and economic development as we embark on the electronic highway.

Once again, the Supreme Court takes a "Canadian" and centralizing view of the Constitution to continue chipping away, little by little, year after year, at the powers of the Quebec National Assembly. That is the true face of federalism in Canada, Mr. Speaker.

This Supreme Court decision confirms the necessity and urgent need for the people of Quebec to have a sovereign state of their own.

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[English]

OVERSEAS TAX CREDIT

Mr. Stephen Harper (Calgary West): Mr. Speaker, thousands of Canadians who work abroad in natural resource industries benefit from the federal overseas tax credit. In return for spending six months of the year away from their families and working often under very difficult conditions, these Canadian workers have had their annual tax liabilities reduced by the credit.

Now as reported by *Alberta Report* magazine, Revenue Canada has decided to retroactively disallow the overseas tax credit to those Canadian workers employed by U.S. parented companies. In some cases this disallowance may extend back three years. This move will be an annoyance to the companies in question but it will do great harm to hundreds of ordinary Canadian workers, most of them Albertans.

I am told that the unforeseen tax bill of up to \$50,000 will cause some of them to lose their homes. This is a shameful way for the Minister of National Revenue to accomplish his goal of closing a so-called tax loophole.

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ROUGE RIVER VALLEY

Mr. John Cannis (Scarborough Centre): Mr. Speaker, this past weekend I had the opportunity along with my family to participate in a reforestation project in the Rouge River Valley system.

The 10,000 Trees for the Rouge River Valley program has been operating for five years and has steadily increased its profile within the community. This year over 1,200 Scarborough residents planted 8,000 trees. Over the past five years this program has planted close to 60,000 trees on about 80 acres of land.

The Rouge Valley is a unique and valuable environmental resource and I urge the Minister of the Environment and The Minister of Canadian Heritage to continue their support and