

Despite three years of significant underexpenditures, the Native Economic Development Program is being treated on the same basis as any other Department of Regional Industrial Expansion program. The Native Economic Development Program cannot enter into any new contracts for this fiscal year and, despite the \$76 million approximately, budgeted it has been told that it cannot look at further applications which are being received at the rate of 25 a month. Although there is a review by June 30, it is evident that the commitments made under this program when originally introduced are being broken.

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[Translation]

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY

IMPORTANCE OF PROTECTING HERITAGE

Mr. Gabriel Desjardins (Témiscamingue): Mr. Speaker, today we join people of all nations to mark the World Environment Day. This day gives us an opportunity to urge all Canadians to take constructive measures to protect our natural and cultural heritage.

Mr. Speaker, why not take this special opportunity to highlight and emphasize the leading role played by international organizations in the fight against pollution?

If I may I should like to pay a special tribute to the Rouyn-Noranda environment committee which has been working tirelessly to improve the quality of life in Abitibi-Témiscamingue where pollution has become a serious problem.

Canadians throughout the country are taking part in a variety of projects to mark today's event. Fifty-odd Quebec organizations, groups and agencies have scheduled nearly 150 activities to promote the environment.

I am very pleased with these initiatives which stress the importance of protecting our heritage, not only for ourselves but for future generations as well.

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[English]

THE CONSTITUTION

1987 CONSTITUTIONAL ACCORD—PARTICIPATION OF QUEBEC

Ms. Sheila Copps (Hamilton East): Mr. Speaker, this has been an historic week for Canada. The work that was begun by Lester Pearson and followed through by Pierre Elliott Trudeau with the repatriation of the Canadian Constitution has finally been completed with the arrival of Quebec in the Canadian family.

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I am extremely proud that as a Liberal it was my Government that began the process and it was my Leader who first launched the request to get Quebec into the Constitution with the January statement in *Le Devoir* and also with his Liberal convention last November.

We believe as a Liberal Party that the Quebec society should be recognized as distinct. We support the Accord whole-heartedly and the position taken by our Leader. We further believe that any Canadian in the struggle to make a good Constitution will want to ask some hard questions and will want to have a very full, public and open debate.

Certainly as a Liberal I am proud we have launched that debate through Lester Pearson, through Pierre Trudeau, and now John Turner who had the guts to raise this issue first and foremost last year.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that it is always the Liberal Party which is leading the way with respect to the Constitution. We led with Lester B. Pearson and we continued with Pierre Elliott Trudeau. And when the Prime Minister of Canada (Mr. Mulroney) remained speechless, it was Mr. Turner who launched the debate, it was the Liberal Party which endorsed Mr. Turner's position at our convention last November.

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[English]

ENVIRONMENT WEEK

COSTS OF PROTECTING ENVIRONMENT

Mr. David Daubney (Ottawa West): Mr. Speaker, this is Environment Week in Canada but it is not a time for platitudes about the environment. Millions of people in the Third World have already died as a result of natural disasters and diseases related to environmental neglect. We in Canada have been lucky so far but we can see on the horizon the shadows of environmental problems about which we have long known: acid rain, changes in our climate, and the poisoning of our world by toxic chemicals.

The new Environmental Protection Act has the potential to help us, but real progress has real costs. We cannot afford to make environmental protection a white-collar issue of concern only to those who work in secure and non-polluting industries. We will have to pay substantial transition costs for the people in industries that will have to change. This will not be popular, but those who enjoy economic security and now seek environmental security cannot expect blue-collar workers to pay for a clean environment with lost jobs and lost hope.