

STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S. O. 31

[English]

CANADA-ARMENIA PARLIAMENTARY
FRIENDSHIP GROUP

Mr. Jean-Pierre Hogue (Outremont): Mr. Speaker, earlier today the Canada-Armenia Parliamentary Friendship Group's founding organizational committee meeting was held. This is an historic day in the relations between Canada and the newly independent Armenia.

On September 21, 1991 a referendum on independence was held in Armenia. Over 99 per cent of Armenians voted for independence.

On November 15, 1991 the newly elected President of Armenia, Levon Ter-Petrosian, visited Canada. He met with a group of MPs and with our Prime Minister.

With a free and independent Armenia, parliamentarians from Canada and Armenia will be working together to build a truly democratic and financially strong Armenia.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, today we wish to pay tribute to the people of Armenia and its representatives and assure them of our support.

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[English]

PUBLIC SERVICE SUPERANNUATION FUND

Mr. Eugène Bellemare (Carleton—Gloucester): Mr. Speaker, the 1991 Auditor General's report criticizes the government for mishandling its employee pension funds because it uses the money from these funds to finance government projects. Eighteen per cent of today's public debt is money owing to the Public Service Superannuation Fund.

Had these moneys been invested in the Canadian securities market rather than used for the government's own borrowing needs, an extra 2 per cent could have been added to the rate of return. This would translate into an extra \$1.5 billion for the employee pension fund.

A healthier fund would help eliminate an increase in the public debt which Canadians would have to make up through higher taxes.

S. O. 31

[Translation]

It is high time the government stopped taking undue advantage of employee pension funds. The government should develop a better investment strategy to ensure the best possible return for its employees and for Canadian taxpayers.

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[English]

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Mr. Bill Attewell (Markham—Whitchurch—Stouffville): Mr. Speaker, two years ago tomorrow 14 bright, young and innocent women were murdered because of their gender by a misogynist named Marc Lepine.

December 6 has been set aside to mark the widespread problem of violence against women and remember the horror that took place two years ago.

We must mark the day that will forever remind us of the women who were murdered. Yet the reality that the pervasive evil of violence against women leaves few Canadians untouched horrifies me.

Tomorrow at a candle-light vigil in Markham I will be lighting a candle for the 14 women who were murdered. I will also be honouring their sisters throughout the world who continue to be abused each day of the year.

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ROYAL CANADIAN MINT

Ms. Joy Langan (Mission—Coquitlam): Mr. Speaker, yesterday my colleague, the member for Winnipeg Transcona, asked the government why it has not intervened in the almost seven-week old strike at the Mint in Winnipeg.

The response from the government side was:

—there is no reason for the Minister of Labour to appoint a mediator unless at least one of the sides indicates it has an interest in that.

This was the response despite the fact that section 105 of the labour code provides for the minister to act on his own initiative.

Today in Ottawa 350 Mint workers joined the strike. I have met with these workers and their demands are not unreasonable.