

S. O. 31

covers a wide range of environmental issues and provides an optimistic outlook to the problems we face.

Within the past year Project Preservation has organized numerous tree plants, litter clean-ups, benefit music festivals and campaigns such as the bad mail campaign, a project to combat junk mail.

My congratulations and best wishes are extended to Project Preservation and to—

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[Translation]

FEDERAL PUBLIC SERVANTS

Mr. Eugène Bellemare (Carleton—Gloucester, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, federal public servants are the government's most precious resource; they implement its programs, deliver its services and apply its regulations.

[English]

If there are to be program cuts or service cuts of any kind in the coming budget I ask that the government privatize or contract out these activities and give first crack to those public servants affected. I also ask that the government change the Superannuation Act to permit those affected from age 50 and on to be able to take voluntary early retirement without penalty.

Let there be no public servant penalized because of public service renewal.

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[Translation]

SHARING THE NATIONAL DEBT

Mr. Martin Cauchon (Outremont, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, we were very surprised to hear that Quebec's Minister of Finance completely changed his mind last Monday about assuming a share of the debt if Quebec separates.

Minister Campeau stated that an independent Quebec will not be forced to accept something that undermines its economic development especially because "it is not our debt, it is Canada's debt".

The minister's recent statement basically contradicts a statement he made in 1994, that Quebec was worried when it saw the cumulative national debt reach \$550 billion as of March 31, 1994, because Quebecers have to pay 25 per cent of it.

The uncertainty created by such statements can only undermine the efforts of those who are working hard for the country's economic recovery.

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• (1405)

FEDERAL PUBLIC SERVICE

Mr. Réjean Lefebvre (Champlain, BQ): Mr. Speaker, with the Prime Minister only too ready to make disparaging remarks

about federal civil servants, who according to him are sitting around and doing nothing, and with the government poised to slash public spending, four Liberal MNAs for the Outaouais prefer taking it easy in the sun to defending the interests of their constituents.

The stakes have never been higher for the federal public service in the Outaouais, as it faces the worst cuts in its history. Outaouais residents are worried about privatization, reduced services and the loss of their jobs. And while they worry, MNAs Middlemiss, MacMillan, Lafrenière and Lesage are away, indifferent to what is happening and doing nothing to stop it.

What sort of political commitment is it when these Liberal MNAs would rather relax in a warm climate than look out for the real problems of those they represent?

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[English]

ETHICS

Mr. Randy White (Fraser Valley West, Ref.): Mr. Speaker, serious allegations have been made concerning the business activities of the member for St. John's West for some months now. The Liberal government has been advised of the situation and a petition for recall has been circulated throughout her riding.

The *Evening Telegram* in St. John's has reported on this fiasco at length. CBC St. John's this morning made public that she is indeed the subject of an RCMP investigation.

This government talks so much about ethics, but will not walk the walk when its own members are involved. Since this government refuses to allow the ethics commissioner to report to Parliament or investigate individual MPs, then recall legislation introduced by the Reform member for Beaver River which was turned down by this government is now more important than ever to the people of St. John's.

Let me quote Janet Ryan from Torbay, Newfoundland: The Prime Minister "as leader of the country and the Liberal Party is morally bound to demand her resignation".

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[Translation]

FESTIVAL DU VOYAGEUR

Mr. Ronald J. Duhamel (St. Boniface, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, I invite you and all my parliamentary colleagues to come to St. Boniface, Manitoba, to take part in the Festival du Voyageur, which starts Friday, February 10.

This festival is a celebration of our history, our traditions and our culture, as well as the contribution of Manitoba's other founding nations, including all of Canada.