

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Wednesday, May 31, 1995

The House met at 2 p.m.

Prayers

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

[English]

WORLD NO TOBACCO DAY

Mr. Andy Mitchell (Parry Sound—Muskoka, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, today marks World No Tobacco Day. I wanted to take this opportunity to offer my support to the call for reduced use of tobacco products.

When I was in the riding last week I had the opportunity to take part in a special event to acknowledge World No Tobacco Day. I helped launch the Muskoka—Parry Sound health unit's anti-smoking campaign to highlight the importance of maintaining the momentum toward smoking reduction in Canadian society.

The federal government initiated its own tobacco demand reduction strategy not long ago as a major component of its anti-tobacco smuggling action plan. This strategy includes legislation, enforcement and public education.

A recent survey conducted by the health unit in my riding indicates two of the high schools in our riding have over 30 per cent usage of tobacco on a regular basis. This is much higher than the provincial average and is a trend I would like to see reversed.

I ask my colleagues to join with me today to encourage young people to stop smoking.

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[Translation]

PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Mr. Maurice Bernier (Mégantic—Compton—Stanstead, BQ): Mr. Speaker, yesterday, in response to a question from the hon. member for Berthier—Montcalm, the Prime Minister referred to Lise Thibault, who is currently president of the Office des personnes handicapées du Québec, as the president of an association for cripples—he used the French word “in-

firme”—right in the middle of National Access Awareness Week.

The use of the French word “infirmes” by the Prime Minister of Canada is a disgrace and an insult to all persons with disabilities. This word perpetuates a stubborn prejudice suggesting that a handicapped person is ill and must be taken care of.

Although all persons with disabilities do have limitations, the vast majority of them are not ill. The Prime Minister should have the decency not to use disabled people for partisan purposes, let alone refer to them in a patronizing way.

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[English]

MISSING CHILDREN

Mrs. Sharon Hayes (Port Moody—Coquitlam, Ref.): Mr. Speaker, the month of May has been the month of the green ribbon of hope campaign for our missing children. May 25 was Missing Children's Day sponsored by Child Find Canada.

Every year over 55,000 Canadian children under the age of 18 are reported to the RCMP's missing children registry. Many of these children leave their homes voluntarily because of harsh and unbearable conditions. Others are abducted and disappear, often becoming the victims of heinous criminal acts.

Child Find Canada is a charitable non-government funded organization dedicated to the elimination of this problem through its education and awareness programs such as its all about me ID program. This is a program that works with parents and local community organizations to document information about a child's basic identity.

The problem of missing children is all too real. It reinforces a need to pursue policies that strengthen our criminal justice system and strengthen and protect the Canadian family.

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[Translation]

BOVINE SOMATOTROPIN

Mr. Bernard Patry (Pierrefonds—Dollard, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, the seven person working group appointed by the Government of Canada to study the safety of recombinant bovine somatotropin for animal and human health should release its report very soon, that is, before the moratorium