

CANADIAN POLISH CONGRESS

Mr. Jesse Flis (Parkdale—High Park, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, the Canadian Polish Congress is an umbrella organization that unites over 240 organizations representing Canadians of Polish origin.

The congress is active in many areas, from helping to successfully resettle newcomers to the promotion of excellent relations with ethnocultural groups across Canada.

Throughout its history, the congress has participated in the development of a strong and united Canada, often providing input and advice to federal and provincial governments through briefs and through personal input.

I am therefore pleased to announce that the Canadian Polish Congress Council has chosen Ottawa as the site of the 1995 annual meeting this week. I welcome the delegates from all provinces and regions, who are beginning the council meeting with a visit to the House of Commons.

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• (1410)

[Translation]

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

Mrs. Francine Lalonde (Mercier, BQ): Mr. Speaker, according to the *Globe and Mail*, the government is preparing to reduce maximum insurable earnings for unemployment insurance.

This decrease will constitute the most substantial tax cut by this government, but essentially the ones to benefit will be high income earners who will therefore be paying less into the unemployment insurance fund, while people with unstable and seasonal work will get less money in benefits.

The minister himself has stated in the past that raising the ceiling would improve income distribution. He knows what he is doing.

We are anxious to see this long awaited unemployment insurance reform. This government, which claims it is addressing people's real problems, did not dare to table it before the referendum. Now we are really going to get clobbered.

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[English]

ATLANTIC CANADA

Mr. Leon E. Benoit (Vegreville, Ref.): Mr. Speaker, me-thinks the Liberals doth protest too much.

To the members of the traditional good old boys club in Atlantic Canada, let us talk oppression. It is the Liberal fisheries minister who would charge an ice-free port for icebreaking. It is the Liberal human resources minister who airlifted Atlantic

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Canadians to Ontario. It is Liberal provincial politicians who have monitored attendance at public meetings. These are the politicians who perpetuate the oppressive political system of handouts and rampant patronage. The truth hurts.

Reformers openly challenge the political system in Atlantic Canada. We offer hope and self-reliance to Atlantic Canadians through proposals such as Atlantica, which builds trade alliances with the eastern United States. This will create jobs.

The Speaker: The hon. member had me worried there; I thought he was going to start reciting the Barbe.

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[Translation]

LEADER OF THE BLOC QUEBECOIS

Mr. Nick Discepola (Vaudreuil, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, the leader of the Bloc Quebecois surprised few people on Tuesday with his announcement of his candidacy for the position vacated by Jacques Parizeau.

He surprised no one either with his announcement that his first priority would be Quebec's public finances. Truth be known, the disastrous state of Quebec's public finances is forcing all pretenders to the throne to promise to make them their first priority.

He did, however, surprise and disappoint people with his announcement that he would never sign a new constitutional agreement. The potential successor to Jacques Parizeau must respect the people's decision of October 30 and work, as the people of Quebec have requested, to renew Canadian federalism. If his separatist obsession precludes his doing so, let him give up the throne to someone who give more heed to the will of the people.

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GUN CONTROL

Mrs. Pierrette Venne (Saint-Hubert, BQ): Mr. Speaker, last evening, the other House finally voted in favour of gun control.

The work we started six years ago has finally come to a conclusion. We now have a tool to help improve public safety. The struggle mobilized many people who, like me, firmly believed that tighter control was necessary. I would like to thank them for their dedication and their tenacity.

On the eve of the grievous anniversary of the massacre at the École polytechnique, Parliament has heard the concerns of the victims' families. Responsible gun owners like us know that privileges imply obligations, and so the law will be observed. We must, however, remain vigilant and continue to keep close watch on the law and its regulations.