

S. O. 31

In Canada alone, some 20,000 people per year are disabled. One thousand workers a year die on the job in the forest industry. It is an incredible situation that in this country we can have 1,000 people a year dying on the job. It proves just how important a centre like this is to assemble the information and material, and to give information to workers, employers and government bodies so that they are aware of the importance, danger and the kind of information that is required when workers are dealing with hazardous situations and dangerous chemicals.

The reason this motion is being debated is because of this crazy corporate agenda that the Conservative party is pursuing. It is trying to find a model way to privatize this centre. The point we have to make is that that the government has an important role to play in moderating and being the objective viewer in these instances.

There must be a stop to these attempts by the Conservative Party to allow its corporate friends to have their way in all aspects of our life. We hope the government will listen, support and ensure that the funding continues so that this centre can continue on a permanent basis.

I mentioned the hard work that my colleague the member for Kootenay West—Revelstoke has done in this particular area. In just the minute I have before you call us to order, I want to read the last paragraph of a petition that he has been circulating into the record because it sums up exactly the concerns that we have. The petition states that the Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety has achieved an unrivalled, international reputation as Canada's national centre for workplace health and safety. The petition concludes:

Therefore, the undersigned humbly pray and call upon Parliament to restore the position and status of the centre as it was at the beginning of 1988, according to the centre's statute, and to reverse any moves that detract from the statutes of the centre as a public corporation with the objective spelled out in Section 5 of the legislation.

Madam Speaker, that is important. I hope the government listens for once.

[*Translation*]

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): It being two o'clock, the House will now proceed to statements by members, pursuant to Standing Order 31.

STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S. O. 31

[*English*]

LAW OF THE SEA

Hon. David MacDonald (Rosedale): Madam Speaker, I rise today to remind the House of an important conference that took place last October, from October 16 to 18, in Copenhagen where representatives of this Parliament and all parties met with representatives of eastern and western Europe, to consider the future of the world's oceans, particularly those directly related to our countries.

At that time, we declared in the final statement the vital importance of the seas and the oceans for the survival of the earth, and the significance of the oceans for the global environment, the survival of species and the maintenance of biological diversity.

Madam Speaker, you will know that in 1982 we concluded an historic agreement on the Law of the Sea. By 1984 some 159 nations had signed this particular treaty. Unfortunately, in the last six years, less than 40 countries have ratified it. It needs 60 countries in order to come into full effect one year later.

Since Canada has the longest coastline in the world—some 150,000 statute miles extending on three oceans—I would urge all members of this Parliament and Canadians to finally endorse and ratify a convention so important to the future of life in this country and on this planet.

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CANADIAN CANCER SOCIETY

Mr. Joe Comuzzi (Thunder Bay—Nipigon): Madam Speaker, April is cancer month in Canada.

Members of the House are wearing daffodils today to help launch the Canadian Cancer Society's yearly campaign. This year the goal is \$41 million.

The backbone of this great society is its 300,000 dedicated volunteers, working throughout Canada in large and small communities. They help in spreading the public education message that is so valuably needed. They help comfort cancer patients in so many ways, and are the driving force behind the society's fund-raising activities.