

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Wednesday, October 24, 1990

The House met at 2 p.m.

Prayers

STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S. O. 31

[*Translation*]

LONG POINT MILITARY BASE

Mr. Alfonso Gagliano (Saint-Léonard): Mr. Speaker, there has been a peaceful demonstration to focus the attention of the public, and especially that of the federal government, on the closing of the Long Point military base. The demonstration in front of the base has just ended.

A few weeks ago, the Minister of National Defence said he was still considering this possibility. This is no time to consider, Mr. Speaker. It is time to act and say no to closing this base, a step that would jeopardize more than 1,000 jobs in East Montreal and more than two million dollars worth of economic spinoffs in the region. East Montreal, as you know is already in poor economic shape, so that closing the base would have a devastating effect.

I therefore wish to ask the government and the Minister of National Defence to inform employees and the people in East Montreal immediately that the base will not be closed and to do so in writing. Only then will businesses, residents and the employees concerned be able to look to the future with confidence.

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TRIBUTE TO SENATOR THÉRÈSE LAVOIE-ROUX

Mrs. Pierrette Venne (Saint-Hubert): Mr. Speaker, today, the School of Social Services at the University of Montreal intends to honour Senator Thérèse Lavoie-Roux for the exceptional contribution she made in the course of her public career, by awarding her an honorary doctorate this afternoon.

Thérèse Lavoie-Roux was, in the course of her career, first commissioner and then president of the Catholic School Commission of Montreal, MPP for the riding of Acadie, Minister of Health and Social Services, and was recently appointed to the Senate.

Mrs. Lavoie-Roux was the first woman to become Minister of Health and Social Services in Quebec. Mr. Speaker, not enough women accept the challenge of public life, and that is why I think it is very important to emphasize the contribution made by Mrs. Lavoie-Roux and her importance as an example for women who are attracted to public life.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to offer Mrs. Lavoie-Roux my sincere congratulations on receiving her honorary degree this afternoon.

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[*English*]

FORESTRY

Mr. Brian L. Gardiner (Prince George—Bulkley Valley): Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Forestry is now saying that he only has \$100 million to fund a new forest agreement with British Columbia, despite the fact that the entire forestry community is demanding a joint agreement which would include a commitment of \$350 million from the federal government.

Mr. Speaker, by buying gas at PetroCan and picking up some forestry stamps, the Boy Scouts are doing more to plant trees in Canada than this government; I will send some stamps to the minister.

Both the federal government and the Socreds in Victoria have failed to sign an agreement despite repeated commitments and promises to do so.

A well-managed forest industry is vital to Canada's economic and environmental well-being, but the health of our forests is left twisting in the wind by the Socreds and Conservatives. They should get on with it and sign a new forest agreement now.