

43rd PARLIAMENT, 2nd SESSION

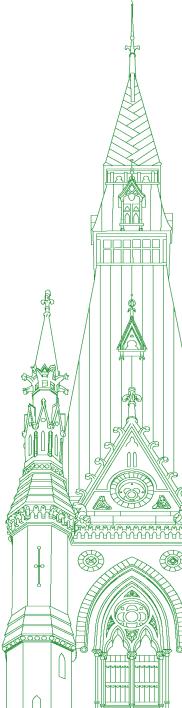
House of Commons Debates

Official Report

(Hansard)

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Wednesday, February 24, 2021



Speaker: The Honourable Anthony Rota

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HOUSE OF COMMONS

Wednesday, February 24, 2021

The House met at 2 p.m.

Prayer

• (1400)

[English]

The Speaker: It being Wednesday, we will now have the singing of the national anthem led by the hon. member for Timmins—James Bay.

[Members sang the national anthem]

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

[English]

NATALE BOZZO

Mr. James Maloney (Etobicoke—Lakeshore, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, it is with deep sadness that I address the House today to pay respects to a legend of a man from Etobicoke—Lakeshore.

Natale Bozzo came to Canada from Italy when he was just 15. He was filled with dreams and a passion for baking. His career began at Sicilia Bakery in Little Italy before he opened his own bakery in Etobicoke in 1969. SanRemo Bakery is now an institution not just in Toronto but far beyond.

Natale passed away last week after a battle with COVID-19. He was incredibly hard-working. His passion was being at the bakery, as he loved bringing joy to people through his food and his delicious creations. He was as tough as steel and yet had a heart of gold. He was a selfless individual and taught everyone he met to value everything, no matter how big or small.

To his wife Nicoletta, his three sons, Rob, Nicholas and Edward, along with the rest of his family, I send my deepest condolences, and on behalf of many, our heartfelt thanks. May he rest in peace.

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● (1405)

VOLUNTEERISM

Mr. Philip Lawrence (Northumberland—Peterborough South, CPC): Mr. Speaker, the COVID pandemic has been a difficult time across the country, including in my riding of Northumberland—Peterborough South. However, today I want to take a mo-

ment to recognize local communities, often the guiding light in these very dark times.

Castleton, a local community in my riding, has built three beautiful outdoor ice rinks. Volunteers work from morning to evening to ensure those skating rinks are kept pristine for local children, their only thanks being the smiles of children.

I can think of no greater honour than to represent the wonderful community of Northumberland—Peterborough South and all the volunteers who work so hard to keep the light in the riding.

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[Translation]

AWARDS FOR DAIRY FARMS IN SALABERRY—SUROÎT

Mrs. Claude DeBellefeuille (Salaberry—Suroît, BQ): Mr. Speaker, a farming family in Sainte-Agnès-de-Dundee is using its expertise to put the riding of Salaberry—Suroît on the map. Today, I am pleased to inform members that the Estermann farm ranked first in Lactanet Canada's top 25 dairy herds.

The Estermanns are no strangers to top honours, since this is the third year in a row that they have received this award. This attests to the excellent care given to their herd, the overall health of their livestock and their innovative agricultural practices.

After immigrating to Canada from Switzerland, Thomas and Rita Estermann decided to settle in our community and start a dairy farm. Today, their children, Martin and Regula, are carrying on the family tradition and helping the farm to thrive.

I also want to congratulate the Lériger farm in Hemmingford, which ranked 15th for organic dairy herds.

When I rise in the House to defend supply management, I am thinking of farms like these, which do our community proud and make a huge contribution to the vitality of our cities and our towns.

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[English]

TROPICANA COMMUNITY SERVICES

Mr. Shaun Chen (Scarborough North, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, Canada is celebrating the 25th anniversary of Black History Month this year with the theme "The Future is Now", highlighting the transformative work of Black communities across Canada.

Statements by Members

In Scarborough North, Tropicana Community Services has been at the forefront of building inclusion for the past 40 years by pioneering culturally responsive programming. The seeds for Tropicana were sown in 1980 when Jamaican-born Robert Brown saw a need to support disadvantaged youth and their families, specifically those in the Caribbean and Black communities.

Today, the multi-service agency remains focused on delivering inclusive services in such areas as counselling, education, employment, personal development and settlement. Most recently, Tropicana is helping to administer our government's Supporting Black Canadian Communities initiative, an investment of \$25 million over five years to help organizations better serve Black Canadians.

I congratulate Tropicana on an incredible 40 years. I wish it many more decades of success.

[Translation]

I applaud and thank Tropicana.

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OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

Ms. Soraya Martinez Ferrada (Hochelaga, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, last week our government tabled its plan to reform and modernize the Official Languages Act. This is the first time the federal government has acknowledged that French is in danger, and we have a duty to protect it in Quebec and across the country.

Our plan is ambitious. We will support francophone culture by modernizing broadcasting and making CBC/Radio-Canada a flagship institution, by giving workers the right to work in French in private businesses under federal jurisdiction in Quebec and in other parts of the country with a strong francophone presence and by working with Quebec to continue supporting newcomer integration in Quebec and French classes.

I am proud of all the immigrants who have helped make the Quebec nation great, people such as Dany Laferrière, Farah Alibay, Corneille and Kim Thúy.

As a proud political refugee and a lover of the French language, I say that the time has come to modernize our Official Languages Act.

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• (1410)

[English]

MARKY RAMOLLA

Mr. Doug Shipley (Barrie—Springwater—Oro-Medonte, CPC): Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the tragic loss of Marky Ramolla. Marky was eight days shy of his 15th birthday when he was tragically taken in a snowmobile accident while riding with his father.

Marky played hockey in the Barrie Colts Minor Hockey Association. He loved his family, he loved working on engines and he loved his Bass Pro hat.

One thousand people attended Marky's celebration of life and 300 of them wore Bass Pro hats. These hats have become so popu-

lar that Bass Pro has donated almost 500 hats for a fundraiser, and Tim Viktil of Pro-Star Sports has donated the embroidery of Marky's jersey, number 96.

The fundraiser from the sale of the hats now helps kids play sports and funds a \$500 tech scholarship in Marky's name at Barrie North Collegiate.

As the one-year anniversary of his heartbreaking death passes, I want to extend my deepest condolences to the family and friends of Marky Ramolla. Please take solace in knowing Marky's name and impact will live on through his scholarship.

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KEITH RUMBOLT

Ms. Gudie Hutchings (Long Range Mountains, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, when we head east, nestled on the edge of the Atlantic Ocean, we will find Newfoundland and Labrador, where we locals lovingly refer to Labrador as the "big land".

The big land is known for many things and many people, but on February 7, the big land lost one of its finest, Keith Rumbolt. He was a son, a father, a brother and a friend to so many; a known fisherman for 30 years; a hard-working mayor; a community leader and a volunteer for everything for his area, especially the local volunteer fire department.

Keith cherished his family and friends and made a connection to all he met. His kind ways were so infectious. He loved the outdoors, was a master navigator and a skilled hunter, and his happiest moments were doing the things he loved with the people he loved. He truly was a son of Labrador.

To his wife Cheryl, children Hailey and Colin, his mother Barb and siblings Nancy, Sherry, Bradley and our own member for Labrador, I know they all have wonderful memories to cherish. I hope they get comfort in knowing Keith gave so many wonderful memories to so many people. The big land has lost one of its biggest smiles.

May my friend rest in peace.

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[Translation]

CARING ANGELS

Mr. René Arseneault (Madawaska—Restigouche, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, in times of crisis like these, the people of Madawaska—Restigouche always give the best of themselves by helping others.

In that regard, I would like to acknowledge the work of a group of volunteers in my riding known as the "Anges bienveillants", or the caring angels, who have made it their mission to help the community of Edmundston, which has been hit hard by the pandemic.

They deliver groceries to seniors. They make phone calls to comfort people who live alone. They will even clear snow off the vehicles in parking lots at health care institutions so that health care workers do not have to do this after an exhausting shift.

For Valentine's Day this month, they set up rows of large hearts outside of nursing homes in the area hardest hit by COVID-19 and distributed coffee and doughnuts, a demonstration of love and encouragement for the residents who really needed it. In return, they enjoyed the happy smiles they got from our seniors, people who are suffering and our caregivers.

Thank you, caring angels.

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[English]

IMMIGRATION, REFUGEES AND CITIZENSHIP

Mr. Jasraj Singh Hallan (Calgary Forest Lawn, CPC): Mr. Speaker, the minister continues to brush aside legitimate concerns from fed up Canadians and their loved ones, who are rightly frustrated and exhausted with the spousal sponsorship process.

Here are the facts. As of November 5, 2020, the backlogs numbered more than 50,000 applications for spousal sponsorship. Last month, it was reported the average processing time went up to 17 months for overseas applications compared to 12 months prior to the pandemic.

Every day I hear heart-wrenching stories of Canadians experiencing significant mental, emotional and financial hardships from being separated from their loved ones because of IRCC backlogs and lengthy processing times, and in some cases even leading to suicide.

It is beyond overdue. The minister needs to finally clear the backlogs and bring these loved ones back together again. The government was slow to close borders, slow with the vaccine rollout, slow or non-existent to declaring Uighur genocide and slow to reunite families, all of which are costing lives.

PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Ms. Pam Damoff (Oakville North—Burlington, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, inclusive employment is more important now than ever. Removing barriers to employment allows people with disabilities to enter the workforce, gain new skills and contribute to businesses and their communities. Companies that actively hire people living with disabilities create a positive work environment for everyone working there and actually improve their bottom line.

In my riding, my friend Curtis, who lives with autism, has been working on the front lines of this pandemic at Oakville Trafalgar Memorial Hospital. The hospital's experience with Curtis has been so positive that two more people living with disabilities have now been hired, demonstrating the benefits of inclusive employment.

This Thursday, I will be the MC at a virtual open house with Community Living Oakville and Xplore Employment services, which will encourage employers to hire people with disabilities. This event will showcase the benefits of hiring people with barriers.

Statements by Members

I encourage all businesses in Oakville North—Burlington to sign up.

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• (1415)

PINK SHIRT DAY

Ms. Raquel Dancho (Kildonan—St. Paul, CPC): Mr. Speaker, today is Pink Shirt Day, a day to stand together against bullying. The pandemic has left millions of Canadians more isolated than ever, with many of us moving online to safely socialize. Unfortunately, bullying and harassment have also moved online, adding to the major mental health challenges already being faced by many Canadians, particularly children, during this difficult and unprecedented time. My heart goes out to the families who have suffered the loss of a loved one due to bullying and the Canadians who live with the ongoing trauma of being bullied. We must do more to protect our children and eliminate bullying, both online and offline.

Pink Shirt Day gives us the opportunity to raise awareness. It is also a reminder to stand up to bullies and to stand up for those who have been victims of bullying and harassment. I encourage all members of Parliament to work together to make sure that every Canadian can live free from bullying and harassment.

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PUBLIC SAFETY

Hon. Rob Moore (Fundy Royal, CPC): Mr. Speaker, my riding of Fundy Royal boasts great organizations like the Petitcodiac Sportsman's Club, the Shepody Fish and Game Association, the Hampton Rifle and Pistol Club and the Sussex Fish and Game Association. These are community hubs with engaged memberships of law-abiding New Brunswickers.

Unfortunately, it is Canadians like these that Bill C-21 will target, while violent gun crime remains largely ignored by the Liberal government. Conservatives want to target criminals, while the government would rather create them. Spending hundreds of millions of dollars to buy legal firearms from licenced owners will not make our community safer. The Liberal government wants Canadians to think it is concerned about safety, but it has just defeated a Conservative bill that would have cracked down on smuggling and possessing illegal firearms.

I will continue to speak up for the law-abiding firearms owners of Fundy Royal, and I firmly believe that Canadians deserve to have evidence-based legislation that will actually make our communities safer.

Statements by Members

[Translation]

WOMEN AND GENDER EQUALITY

Mrs. Carol Hughes (Algoma—Manitoulin—Kapuskasing, NDP): Mr. Speaker, as society struggles to find balance during the pandemic, it is clear that women have a difficult road to travel to recover from the crisis.

Given the greater loss of jobs held by women last year and the fewer options available to them, many women were forced to choose between their work and parenting. Last February, women accounted for almost half of the labour force in Canada. Since then, almost two out of every three jobs held by women have been lost.

[English]

By July, those losses had erased three decades of gains made by women in Canadian workplaces, while unpaid work, such as caring for children, increased.

In a few short weeks, we will celebrate the economic, political and social achievements of women past, present and future on International Women's Day. The challenges presented by this gender-based employment gap, which is being described as a "she-cession", make it clear that we must focus on the "she-covery" to ensure the path forward is equitable.

[Translation]

YVES MARTIN

Mr. Louis Plamondon (Bécancour—Nicolet—Saurel, BQ): Mr. Speaker, another major architect of the Quiet Revolution has passed away. On behalf of the Bloc Québécois, allow me to honour the memory of Yves Martin and offer my condolences to his family and loved ones.

History will remember Mr. Martin as a founder of the Université du Québec network. Generations upon generations will continue to flourish as a result of the legacy of Mr. Martin's work to foster the intellectual enrichment of his nation. A sociologist by training, he was also central to the creation of Quebec's ministry of education and therefore the tremendous gains in education that have since enabled our young people to aspire to a future that lives up to their ambitions. Yves Martin was one of those bureaucrats who were fully devoted to public service and who laid the foundation of modern Quebec.

The Bloc Québécois also remembers his generous collaboration and, more broadly, his contribution to the sovereignist movement, alongside our greatest premiers. I thank Yves Martin for his dedication.

● (1420) [English]

HUMAN RIGHTS

Mr. Garnett Genuis (Sherwood Park—Fort Saskatchewan, CPC): Mr. Speaker, on Monday this House took a powerful step forward by recognizing the Uighur genocide. I want to thank all who were involved. I particularly want to recognize the role of the

research done by Adrian Zens, the relentless advocacy of Irwin Cotler, the work of the subcommittee and of IPAC, and most important, the tenacious work of the Uighur community. This will be a hollow victory if it is not followed up with concrete actions by the government. The genocide will not stop simply because of our vote to recognize it.

Notwithstanding its abstentions, the government must now do the right thing and follow the will of the elected House of Commons. In a responsible government, the cabinet must align its decisions with the perspectives and priorities of the people's representatives. If we are going to be serious about promoting human rights abroad, then we must practise democracy at home.

The Conservatives will continue to call for the relocation of the Olympics, for meaningful measures to prevent the importation of products made by Uighur slave labour, and most importantly, for targeted sanctions to hold the perpetrators of this genocide accountable.

The experts have spoken. The survivors have spoken. Now Parliament has spoken. It is time for the government to respond.

PINK SHIRT DAY

Mr. Darren Fisher (Dartmouth—Cole Harbour, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, today is Pink Shirt Day, a day when folks across Canada wear pink shirts to show others they are against bullying.

Back in 2007, Nova Scotian students Travis Price and David Shepherd noticed one of the students in their class was being bullied for wearing a pink shirt. Upset by what they witnessed, they purchased pink shirts and handed them out to their classmates to show their support for the student who had been bullied.

Bullying happens in many forms. Small acts of kindness can make a huge difference in someone's life. Wearing a pink shirt to show one's support is one thing, but I ask all members of this House and all Canadians to stand up against bullying each and every day. If we see someone being bullied, we should support them by speaking up or asking someone we trust to help.

On this Pink Shirt Day and every day, we should do the right thing and stand up against bullying.

The Speaker: Before moving on to Oral Questions, I would like to do a bit of housekeeping and remind hon. members that Standing Order 31 allows for 60 seconds. I would ask that members try to keep their statements to that, as I have noticed some going a little over. These are all good messages, and I would hate to cut them off, so try to keep them to 60 seconds.

As well, although it is nice to see both sides talking to each other across the floor, I encourage hon. members, if they want to speak to each other, to please cross over to talk and then go back, because it makes it very hard for everyone to hear the questions and answers.

ORAL QUESTIONS

[English]

HEALTH

Hon. Erin O'Toole (Leader of the Opposition, CPC): Mr. Speaker, 8% is the percentage of Canadians the Prime Minister now plans to have vaccinated by April. Eighty-five percent of Israelis are already vaccinated. Americans are vaccinating two million people per day.

Why does the Prime Minister think that 8% by April is good enough for Canadians?

Right Hon. Justin Trudeau (Prime Minister, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, I have good news to share concerning vaccine deliveries in Canada.

In the week of March 8, we are expecting over 460,000 doses of Moderna, and in the week of March 22, we are expecting over 840,000 doses of Moderna, which means we will be receiving over two million doses in the first quarter, even more than was promised. In the first two weeks of April alone, we will be receiving over 1.5 million doses of the Pfizer BioNTech vaccine.

We will continue to work every single day to bring as many vaccines as possible to Canadians as quickly as possible.

Hon. Erin O'Toole (Leader of the Opposition, CPC): Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister is announcing good news. What did Dr. Tam say on Friday? She announced, "For the next months we're not going to have a lot of people vaccinated, that's a fact."

This means our country is extremely vulnerable to a third wave of COVID-19. Did the Prime Minister's slow approach on the vaccine rollout guarantee a third wave of COVID-19 for Canada?

Right Hon. Justin Trudeau (Prime Minister, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, as of last summer, we started negotiating for vaccine contracts. We signed more contracts with more companies for more potential doses for Canadians than just about any other country.

We will be delivering, as scheduled, over six million doses by the end of the first quarter and 20 million doses into the spring. Everyone who wants a vaccine will be able to be vaccinated before the end of September.

We are on track, but we are working every single day to accelerate that even further.

• (1425)

Hon. Erin O'Toole (Leader of the Opposition, CPC): Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister is not on track.

Here is why: 300,000 people need to be vaccinated per day with a two-dose vaccine to meet the Prime Minister's September deadline. That is like vaccinating the city of Vaughan every single day.

Oral Questions

What is the plan to vaccinate 300,000 people every single day to meet that September deadline?

Right Hon. Justin Trudeau (Prime Minister, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, as we have said from the very beginning, we have been working with the provinces in preparation for the big lift in the coming weeks, as we go from vaccines coming in slowly because of manufacturing delays and ramp-ups, to receiving millions upon millions of vaccines coming in and getting into people's arms.

We will be working with the private sector. We will be working with provinces and territories. We will be working with family doctors and pharmacists. We are going to make sure that everyone who wants a vaccine gets vaccinated by September.

[Translation]

Hon. Erin O'Toole (Leader of the Opposition, CPC): Mr. Speaker, Canada has vaccinated less than 4% of its population. The United States has vaccinated almost 20% of their population. Canada is lagging behind. The Prime Minister promised to vaccinate all Canadians by September. To get there, we would have to vaccinate 300,000 people a day.

Where is the plan?

Right Hon. Justin Trudeau (Prime Minister, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce today that we will be getting more than 460,000 doses of the Moderna vaccine the week of March 8. The week of March 22, we will get 840,000 doses of the Moderna vaccine. This means that we will have received over two million doses in the first quarter.

Furthermore, in the first two weeks of April alone, we will be receiving more than 1.5 million doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine.

We are going to start receiving a large number of doses in the coming months and we will work with the provinces and territories to get vaccines into the arms of all Canadians.

Hon. Erin O'Toole (Leader of the Opposition, CPC): Mr. Speaker, we need 300,000 doses per day, not per week.

Israel is ready to vaccinate its entire population. The Americans are vaccinating millions of people a day. Canada now ranks 53rd worldwide in terms of vaccinations. That is unacceptable for a G7 country.

How many Canadians will be vaccinated next week?

Right Hon. Justin Trudeau (Prime Minister, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, we are getting hundreds of thousands of vaccines every week, and we will continue to get more. We have been working with the provinces and territories from the beginning.

Oral Questions

I assure my hon. colleague that I have faith that the provinces and territories, with which we have been working for many months now, will be able to vaccinate people as quickly as possible.

I can also tell him that the provinces and territories have categorically assured me they will be able to ramp up vaccination rates to use all of the doses Canada will be getting.

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OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

Mr. Yves-François Blanchet (Beloeil—Chambly, BQ): Mr. Speaker, as a precursor to future linguistic policies, the government's preliminary discussion paper has two things going for it. It recognizes that the status of French is precarious, and it recognizes the need for action. This is a statement of intent.

Quebec already has Bill 101. We alone must decide how to deal with our linguistic issues.

Can the Prime Minister tell us what his minister's proposal does better than or over and above Bill 101?

Right Hon. Justin Trudeau (Prime Minister, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, this is precisely the bone of contention between the Bloc Québécois and the Liberal Party of Canada.

We both recognize that French is in decline in Canada and Quebec, and we will take action.

However, the government recognizes that we must act to protect our beautiful language not only in Quebec, but across Canada: in Timmins, in Moncton, in Saint-Boniface, in Boninville and from coast to coast to coast.

That is what the federal government can do, and that is what we will do with our plan to modernize the Official Languages Act.

• (1430)

Mr. Yves-François Blanchet (Beloeil—Chambly, BQ): Mr. Speaker, the Bloc Québécois is not opposed to supporting French outside Quebec, not at all.

What we are saying, however, is that this document will turn into any kind of legislation until after an election, which could be this fall, or maybe in the spring or even next year, so why not act quickly to immediately implement Bill 101 in federally regulated institutions, as the Bloc has proposed in a bill?

Right Hon. Justin Trudeau (Prime Minister, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, once again, we clearly see that the Bloc only cares about Quebec, and that is fine.

We in the Government of Canada are here as proud Quebeckers and proud Canadians to protect the French language across Canada. That is exactly what we are going to do. We will work with the Government of Quebec to protect French in that province, but we will also work with governments, municipalities, partners and institutions across the country to enhance the vitality of the beautiful language of Molière.

PHARMACARE

Mr. Jagmeet Singh (Burnaby South, NDP): Mr. Speaker, across the country, people cannot buy the medication they need.

I have met families that have to cut their pills in half because they cannot afford them. Canadians need public, universal pharmacare. Every union in Quebec agrees.

Will the Prime Minister vote in favour of fully public universal pharmacare, yes or no?

Right Hon. Justin Trudeau (Prime Minister, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, no Canadian should have to choose between paying for their medication and putting food on the table.

In one generation, we have done more than any other government to lower the price of drugs. We are working with the provinces and territories to ensure that all Canadians have access to affordable drugs, but we will not do what the NDP is proposing and impose a federal solution on Quebec and the other provinces. We will work in partnership and respect constitutional jurisdictions.

[English]

Mr. Jagmeet Singh (Burnaby South, NDP): Mr. Speaker, today the Prime Minister has a choice. Will he stand on the side of people who cannot afford the medication they need and desperately need help, or will he stand on the side of big pharma, which does not want to see medication coverage for all?

The Liberal government's own report states that the Canada pharmacare act is one of the key steps in establishing medication coverage for all. That is exactly what our New Democratic bill would do.

Will the Prime Minister be voting in favour of our bill to bring in medication coverage for all Canadians, yes or no?

Right Hon. Justin Trudeau (Prime Minister, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, no Canadian should have to choose between paying for their medication and putting food on the table. That is why this government has done more, over the past five years, than any previous government to lower the prices of prescription drugs. We know there is more to do, but unlike the NDP we will not be imposing on provincial jurisdictions rules that are not worked out with them. We respect the Constitution on this side of the House, and we will work hand in glove with the premiers to ensure that we are ensuring pharmacare universally across this country.

[Translation]

EMPLOYMENT

Hon. Pierre Poilievre (Carleton, CPC): Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister has failed on several counts. He has the highest unemployment rate in the G7. That is a failure. He has the largest deficit in the G7. That is another failure. He has the lowest vaccination rate in the G7. That is another failure.

When the Montreal Canadiens had a string of losses, they fired their coach. When the country's coach has a string of failures, is it not time to fire him?

Right Hon. Justin Trudeau (Prime Minister, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, we made a very direct promise to Canadians at the beginning of the pandemic. We promised to be there for them, no matter how long it lasted or what it took. That is what we are doing.

We are there to support workers, families and small businesses. We will continue to support our seniors. We will continue to protect Canadians' health so we can get through this pandemic and get back to growing our economy as quickly as possible.

That is our plan. That is our approach, but the Conservatives think that we are spending too much, too quickly. That is not true.

[English]

Hon. Pierre Poilievre (Carleton, CPC): Mr. Speaker, the first Trudeau killed jobs in the west, and now we learn intentionally in Quebec. This Prime Minister, by contrast, spreads job losses around equally: 850,000 of them, in fact. It is the highest unemployment in the G7 and the worst economic growth per capita since the Great Depression.

Does the Prime Minister not understand that spreading misery around equally is not a virtue?

• (1435)

Right Hon. Justin Trudeau (Prime Minister, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, Conservative politicians from the very beginning of this pandemic kept insisting that we were spending too much when investing in Canadians, and that we should have helped businesses before we helped families. The member opposite specifically said that he did not believe in the kinds of investments we were making in Canadians. He was wrong then and he is wrong now.

Indeed, as of January, Canada had recovered 71% of the jobs lost in the wake of the pandemic, compared with only 56% in the U.S. At 64.3%, Canada has a higher labour force participation rate than Germany, the U.S. and Japan. We are working right.

Hon. Pierre Poilievre (Carleton, CPC): Mr. Speaker, the problem with that is that, on 49 different occasions in the House, the Prime Minister has said that the best measurement of jobs is the unemployment rate. By that measure, Japan has a 3% unemployment rate, Germany and the U.K. have 5% unemployment rates, the U.S. has 6% and Italy and France, two socialist countries, have 9% unemployment rates. Canada is at the top of the heap for job losses and unemployment.

Why does the Prime Minister excel at being the worst? Is it because he has so much practice?

Right Hon. Justin Trudeau (Prime Minister, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, while the opposition plays political word games, we are going to remain focused on Canadians.

We have been, from the very beginning, there to invest in Canadians, to support small businesses through this historic pandemic, and to work with families and workers to support them as we make it through this.

Oral Questions

We are going to continue to stay focused on what is necessary to support families across the country and bring our economy roaring back as we reopen. That is the plan and the focus this government has taken. Conservatives can well say we are doing too much, but we know that we are going to continue to do what is necessary.

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[Translation]

HEALTH

Mr. Richard Martel (Chicoutimi—Le Fjord, CPC): Mr. Speaker, the Liberal government has a real genius for announcing poorly designed policies.

The Prime Minister recently announced new quarantine measures for travellers, but they are not working. People cannot come back to Canada unless they have a hotel reservation. They are trying to make reservations, but the problem is that they are spending three days on the phone and still not getting through to anyone.

What is the Prime Minister's plan for fixing this situation?

Right Hon. Justin Trudeau (Prime Minister, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, we are here to implement some of the strictest measures in the world at our borders. We have been taking extremely strong measures since March, and we continue to work to keep all Canadians safe.

I understand that there are additional measures and that things are complicated for some people who are returning to Canada. We are working to make it easier to book a hotel room and stay safe. At the same time, we want to point out that this is not the ideal time to travel. Now is the time to stay home, stay safe and keep our neighbours safe.

Mr. Richard Martel (Chicoutimi—Le Fjord, CPC): Mr. Speaker, we understand that it is best not to travel, but there are Canadians who need to come back home. It is the government's job to implement suitable measures to ensure that all Canadian citizens can return in a safe and orderly manner. Unfortunately, what is happening is exactly the opposite. Every time this government comes up with a plan, it is either too late or ill-conceived.

I would like to know when the Prime Minister is going to fix this situation.

Right Hon. Justin Trudeau (Prime Minister, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, our plan for quarantining people returning to Canada is working. Yes, there were some challenges the first few days, but we are able to address them and keep travellers and all Canadians safe when they return.

I understand that this is a challenging situation for many people, but we will continue to be there to protect travellers and all Canadians through these responsible measures.

Oral Questions

Hon. Erin O'Toole (Leader of the Opposition, CPC): Did he say it is working, Mr. Speaker? People are spending 25 hours on hold to reserve a hotel room. That is unbelievable, although not unexpected with this government, which has not come up with a rapid testing plan, a vaccination plan or a quarantine plan.

Why is this Prime Minister always showing up late and unprepared?

• (1440)

Right Hon. Justin Trudeau (Prime Minister, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, Canada has some of the strictest border and travel measures in the world. The concerning variants have forced us to adopt new measures to protect Canadians during the COVID-19 pandemic.

We have made it clear from the beginning of the pandemic that no one should be travelling. Travelling puts people at risk. Our goal will always be to protect Canadians. We are addressing the glitches in the new system, but we will always ensure that Canadians are protected.

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REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Stéphane Bergeron (Montarville, BQ): Mr. Speaker, yesterday we read disturbing records of official conversations between the U.S. government and former prime minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau. We learned that after the Parti Québécois was elected in 1976, Mr. Trudeau talked about a diplomatic and industrial strategy to undermine Quebec's economy. He asked Paul Desmarais to move his business out of Quebec, with the stated objective of doubling Quebec's unemployment rate. The Canadian prime minister was plotting to make honest people lose their jobs for political ends.

Does the Prime Minister think his predecessor's actions were worthy of the office?

Right Hon. Justin Trudeau (Prime Minister, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, I will not get into a debate over history with the Bloc Québécois member today. What I am concerned about these days is protecting people, fighting COVID-19 and ensuring a strong economic comeback for Quebec and Canada. That is what I will continue to focus on.

Mr. Stéphane Bergeron (Montarville, BQ): Mr. Speaker, then let us talk about the present. These revelations have revived questions about federal support for Quebec's leading industries. Ottawa is abandoning our aerospace sector, since Canada is the only major country without a strategic policy for this sector. It is abandoning Davie and our shipbuilding expertise. Although Quebec is a pioneer in the electrification of transportation, the government is investing \$300 million to develop batteries in Ontario. The list goes on. What looks like a definite trend today, to put it mildly, was a deliberate strategy under Pierre Elliott Trudeau.

Now more than ever, the Prime Minister must explain why he has neglected our leading industries. Will he do so?

Right Hon, Justin Trudeau (Prime Minister, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, on the contrary, since the start of this pandemic and since taking office five years ago, we have been investing for Quebeckers and for all Canadians.

We are investing in new technologies. We are working with our partners in Quebec and across the country to invest in aerospace and electrification. We will continue to make investments.

I know that it upsets the Bloc to see a federal government that is very present in people's lives and helping Quebeckers and Canadians every day, but that is exactly what we are doing.

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[English]

COVID-19 EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Hon. Michelle Rempel Garner (Calgary Nose Hill, CPC): Mr. Speaker, the Liberals have put Canada months behind the rest of the world in getting vaccines. It is troubling that yesterday the government said that even with mass vaccination, COVID restrictions may continue.

More public sacrifice and lockdowns were the response to the second wave, and the government's projections say that this clearly did not work. If the government is now saying vaccines will not lift all restrictions, what is the Prime Minister's plan B, or does he plan on keeping Canada under COVID restrictions forever?

Right Hon. Justin Trudeau (Prime Minister, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, I am not entirely sure what the opposition health critic has been watching, but we have seen, over the past many weeks, the numbers decline because of the significant public health measures that Canadians have been engaged in and the sacrifices people have been making. The provinces have led the way in bringing in the right kinds of restrictions over the past number of months. We have seen this working.

As vaccines are arriving at the same time as we are seeing a danger of variants, we need to remain vigilant, get as many people vaccinated as possible and continue to keep ourselves safe from the threat of a third wave.

Hon. Michelle Rempel Garner (Calgary Nose Hill, CPC): Mr. Speaker, I watched Theresa Tam's press conference on Friday and it had a violently high hockey stick projection of what the third wave could look like because the Prime Minister has not produced vaccines for Canadians. Virtually no one can get one, but, again, the health officials said that even with mass vaccination, the government might not recommend opening up the country. People are losing their lives, their mental health and their jobs. We need certainty and a plan to move forward.

Is the government now saying that a fully vaccinated population will not end lockdowns, and if so, what will?

• (1445)

Right Hon. Justin Trudeau (Prime Minister, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, every step of the way during this pandemic, we have made our decisions based on the best recommendations of science and scientists, comparing data from around the world and moving forward in ways that have kept Canadians safer than those in many countries. At the same time, we have seen too many tragedies.

We will continue to move forward in ways that minimize the spread of COVID-19 and maximize the speed with which vaccines arrive. We will work hand in hand with the provinces and territories on the public health measures that are necessary to see us through this pandemic and out the other side in the best shape possible.

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[Translation]

HEALTH

Mr. Pierre Paul-Hus (Charlesbourg—Haute-Saint-Charles, CPC): Mr. Speaker, the best way to get back to something close to normal in Canada is to vaccinate people.

Great Britain has come up with a four-step plan to lift its lock-down restrictions. It is vaccinating 400,000 people a day.

Canadians are realizing that we are really behind, and it is the Prime Minister's fault.

What is the Prime Minister's plan to make up for lost time?

Right Hon. Justin Trudeau (Prime Minister, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, we are starting to receive hundreds of thousands of vaccines a week, and we will be receiving millions in the coming weeks.

We know that we are going to speed up the vaccination process, but we need to continue to be vigilant against the variants that are coming in from places around the world.

We will overcome this crisis thanks to the support our government is providing to small businesses and families and thanks to the health measures that people are taking and the sacrifices that everyone has unfortunately had to make this winter. We will keep going and overcome this crisis together.

Mr. Pierre Paul-Hus (Charlesbourg—Haute-Saint-Charles, CPC): Mr. Speaker, I would like to point out to the Prime Minister that Canada is still ranked 53rd in terms of the total number of doses administered. All of the other G7 countries are doing far better than us. The problem is that we need a plan.

If the Prime Minister is so confident about the vaccines, can he tell us when we will be able to end the lockdown and get back to normal life?

[English]

The Speaker: We have a point of order for a technical issue.

The hon. member for Hamilton Mountain.

Mr. Scott Duvall: Mr. Speaker, I am hearing the interpretation in English and French at the same time, and the French version is coming in louder than the English interpretation.

Oral Questions

The Speaker: I want to thank the hon. member for Hamilton Mountain. We will take a look at that and make sure it gets corrected. I just ask for a little patience with that one.

Is everything corrected? I will speak in English. Everybody is hearing in French.

[Translation]

Can everyone hear the interpretation properly now? Has the problem been resolved?

[English]

We are not hearing anything.

The hon. member for Hamilton Mountain, is everything clear? Is it working out well?

Mr. Scott Duvall: Mr. Speaker, it seems to be now, yes.

[Translation]

The Speaker: That is good. We will start over. I will ask the hon. member for Charlesbourg—Haute-Saint-Charles to repeat his question, for continuity.

The hon. member for Charlesbourg—Haute-Saint-Charles.

Mr. Pierre Paul-Hus: Mr. Speaker, our technical problems make me think of the technical problems we are having managing the vaccines, since Canada still ranks 53rd for the total number of doses administered to our citizens.

Canadians are tired and fed up with living with uncertainty, a situation that could have been avoided. They do not want to hear any more platitudes.

Can the Prime Minister tell us whether he has a plan? Can he tell Canadians when we will be able to get back to a normal life?

Right Hon. Justin Trudeau (Prime Minister, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, we all want to know when life will get back to normal.

We all want this pandemic to be over, but in the meantime we will continue to vaccinate more and more people. We have to continue keeping certain public health measures in place and we will evaluate them at each stage.

We will reassess according to the situation, according to the variants coming in, according to local situations. We are working with the provinces and territories. We are working with public health experts and we will do everything we can to keep Canadians safe, for their own well-being and for the strong economic recovery afterward.

Oral Questions

• (1450)

[English]

PHARMACARE

Mr. Peter Julian (New Westminster—Burnaby, NDP): Mr. Speaker, during this pandemic, universal pharmacare is needed more urgently than ever. Ninety percent of Canadians support it. Millions of Canadians cannot pay for the medications their doctors prescribe, and hundreds die every year.

The Hoskins report stated that it was essential that the principles of universal health care apply to universal pharmacare.

The vote on the Canada pharmacare act is in an hour, and Canadians want to know the following. Will the Prime Minister betray today his election promise for public universal pharmacare?

Right Hon. Justin Trudeau (Prime Minister, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, we agree that no Canadian should have to choose between putting food on the table and paying for their medications.

That is why we remain committed to national universal pharmacare. Though we welcome debate on this private member's bill, any actions must be taken with provinces and territories, and not unilaterally imposed upon the provinces and territories.

Now is the time to work with provinces and territories, as we are, to provide all Canadians access to affordable medication.

Mr. Don Davies (Vancouver Kingsway, NDP): Mr. Speaker, the facts are clear. The reality is that millions of Canadians today have to choose between paying their rent and getting the medications their doctors prescribe. Many are getting sicker and even dying from this lack of basic health care.

Canada is the only country in the world with universal health care that does not cover prescription drugs. The truth is that drug prices have risen every single year under the Liberal government's mandate. The truth, as well, is that the NDP bill would work exactly the way our public health care system does, allowing provinces and territories to participate if they wish.

Will the Prime Minister stop his hollow excuses and vote for pharmacare as he has promised, and finally deliver universal pharmacare to every Canadian who needs it?

Right Hon. Justin Trudeau (Prime Minister, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, we have been working since day one as a government to reduce prescription drug prices in this country. We have done more to reduce prescription drug prices than any other government in history. Yes, we know there is more to do.

That is why we have rolled up our sleeves and are working on national universal pharmacare in partnership with the provinces and territories. The NDP are pulling a political stunt to try to demonstrate that they could do it with the wave of a magic wand.

We work in the real world here. We work with the provinces. We work within the Constitution. We will deliver national pharmacare for Canadians.

CANADA-U.S. RELATIONS

Mr. Raj Saini (Kitchener Centre, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, yesterday the Prime Minister and President Biden met to ensure a coordinated approach to our shared priorities. Our two countries have agreed on a road map for a renewed U.S.-Canada partnership, which prioritizes the fight against COVID-19, economic recovery following the pandemic strains, and the global climate threat.

Can the Prime Minister please update the House on the joint Canada-U.S. build back better together plan?

Right Hon. Justin Trudeau (Prime Minister, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, I thank the member for Kitchener Centre for his question and important work to strengthen Canada's most important relationship.

The Canadian and U.S. economies are deeply interconnected. Yesterday, President Biden and I discussed our shared vision for a sustainable and inclusive economic recovery, which ensures that people will have good jobs and supports middle-class prosperity on both sides of the border. We agreed to build back better together in a way that addresses the disproportionate impacts on women, youth, under-represented groups and indigenous peoples, and we will continue to work together.

IMMIGRATION, REFUGEES AND CITIZENSHIP

Mr. Jasraj Singh Hallan (Calgary Forest Lawn, CPC): Mr. Speaker, the Beijing visa office is being run by a company owned by Chinese police, and the Liberal government does not seem concerned. The government and VFS Global say that people's information is protected from the entry point onward.

People are entering information into those computers physically. How can the data processed by that centre be considered secure when it is being inputted by people hired by a Beijing police-owned company?

Right Hon. Justin Trudeau (Prime Minister, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, I can assure you that, like our allies, including the U.K., New Zealand and others, we take extremely seriously the security and privacy of people applying for visas. That is why we work very closely with the companies and the contractors involved to ensure that all privacy regulations and security protocols are being met. There is ongoing work to ensure that remains always the case.

Mr. Jasraj Singh Hallan (Calgary Forest Lawn, CPC): However, Mr. Speaker, it was reported by The Globe and Mail that members of the Chinese Communist Party work in the visa office. State-owned companies with a specific number of party members have to follow rules that allow the Communist Party to influence management. This is extremely concerning.

Why is the Prime Minister willing to risk having our visa office influenced by the Chinese Communist Party?

Right Hon. Justin Trudeau (Prime Minister, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, like I said, we take the privacy of applicants very seriously. All third party contractors undergo rigorous screening. Officials regularly carry out thorough inspections and audits to ensure compliance with Canada's privacy standards. A number of countries also use the local company, including many of our Five Eyes allies. We will continue to do everything necessary to ensure the safety and integrity of our visa application system.

• (1455)

NATURAL RESOURCES

Ms. Marilyn Gladu (Sarnia—Lambton, CPC): Mr. Speaker, after the Liberals said Line 5 was "critical to Canada's energy and economic security", the Prime Minister did not even raise the topic with President Biden yesterday. How are we supposed to rebuild a relationship with our most important ally when the PM cannot even raise the most pressing issue, while 50,000 jobs on both sides of the border are at risk?

How can Canadians believe the Prime Minister when he is no talk, no action?

Right Hon. Justin Trudeau (Prime Minister, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to be able to correct the hon. member and point out that, yes, indeed, in our extensive bilateral conversations with the Americans yesterday, we brought up Line 5 because it continues to be an important issue for people in Ontario and Quebec and, indeed, across the country. We spoke yesterday about how Canada is a reliable source of energy contributing to U.S. energy security and economic competitiveness. Ambassador Hillman and our Detroit consul general are strongly advocating for Line 5's continued operation and our government continues to engage at the highest levels.

Hon. Erin O'Toole (Leader of the Opposition, CPC): Mr. Speaker, "Build back better together" is a nice slogan, but on day one, the Biden administration let thousands of Canadian families down with the cancellation of Keystone XL.

Yesterday 30,000 families were expecting the Prime Minister to bring up the situation personally with Line 5, because a decision has to be made in May. Michigan declared an energy emergency, and it does not seem to be urgent to this Prime Minister, despite the fact that workers, families, farms and communities across Ontario and Ouebec are worried about Line 5.

The Prime Minister's language was very specific: "We" raised it.

Did the Prime Minister personally raise Line 5 with President Biden?

Right Hon. Justin Trudeau (Prime Minister, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, yesterday Canada and the United States agreed to an ambitious

Oral Questions

road map partnership. We will work together to beat COVID-19 and ensure that everyone, everywhere, has access to a vaccine. We will also fight climate change and accelerate clean growth. We will create jobs, we will grow the middle class, and we will address systemic racism.

We are each other's closest allies and most important trading partners. Yes, we talked about energy security and about cross-border flows, and yes, we raised Line 5.

[Translation]

HEALTH

Ms. Kristina Michaud (Avignon—La Mitis—Matane—Matapédia, BQ): Mr. Speaker, the hotels designated for mandatory quarantines for returning travellers are in a state of chaos. People are spending up to 28 hours on the phone to find a room where they can self-isolate, only to then find themselves crammed into lobbies with no physical distancing and no way to get a decent meal. Worse still, the physical safety of travellers is not even assured. The Prime Minister has simply dumped the quarantine problem onto the hotel sector, without any oversight.

When will he finally show some leadership and take charge of the mess he has created?

Right Hon. Justin Trudeau (Prime Minister, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, the safety of Canadians is always our top priority. That is why we have imposed some of the toughest measures in the world on travellers entering Canada. We will continue to keep Canadians safe by implementing those measures.

We are aware of the delays involved in accessing the reservation system. We thank Canadians for their patience as we implement these new public health measures.

We are deeply concerned about the allegations of sexual assault, and we will ensure that the proper authorities follow up appropriately.

Ms. Kristina Michaud (Avignon—La Mitis—Matane—Matapédia, BQ): Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister must take responsibility.

His government failed every step of the way with the quarantines. He was unable to ban non-essential flights at Christmas or to impose hotel quarantines when they were needed, which was during the holidays. He was unable to set up a hotline or even to ensure that the people he is responsible for are safe and receiving services. He is blaming travellers and hotel operators for all the problems with the quarantines.

Oral Questions

He is the one responsible for the chaos. When will he fix it?

(1500)

Right Hon. Justin Trudeau (Prime Minister, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, every step of the way, we have taken measures to keep Canadians safe, and we will continue to do so.

We have some of the strictest measures for travellers of all allied countries. We will continue to examine additional measures that may be required to prevent these variants from spreading across the country. We will always do what we can to meet travellers' needs, but, at the same time, our priority must be the concerns and safety of Canadians who are not travelling and who are vulnerable to the variants. We will always do what is necessary to protect people.

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[English]

HUMAN RIGHTS

Hon. Michael Chong (Wellington—Halton Hills, CPC): Mr. Speaker, Parliament has recognized the Uighur Muslim genocide in Xinjiang. Upholding the rules-based international order means upholding treaties like the 1948 genocide convention. Article I of the convention clearly establishes Canada's obligation to prevent genocide, even if it is extraterritorial. This obligation is binding and is the norm of international law.

What action is the government taking to fulfill its obligation under the genocide convention and international law?

Right Hon. Justin Trudeau (Prime Minister, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, we have always and we will always stand up for human rights around the world. We are deeply concerned by reports of human rights violations in China against the Uighur minority, including significant and serious reports of genocide.

We recognize that the vote in Parliament ensured that every member could make a determination based on available evidence. We welcome parliamentarians working together and debating this critical issue. As the government, we have a responsibility to work with others in the international community in ensuring that any such allegations are investigated by an independent international body of legal experts.

[Translation]

Hon. Michael Chong (Wellington—Halton Hills, CPC): Mr. Speaker, 20% of the world's cotton is produced in Xinjiang, where half a million Uighurs are forced to pick cotton in a coercive staterun system.

The measures announced last month on imports from Xinjiang are not enough. Does the government realize that these measures will not work, and will it impose better measures, such as banning imports from Xinjiang?

Right Hon. Justin Trudeau (Prime Minister, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, we have always stood up for human rights around the world, and that will not change. We are deeply concerned by reports of human rights violations in China against the Uighur minority and other ethnic minorities.

Canada is taking a comprehensive approach to defending the rights of Uighurs and other ethnic minorities, including by advanc-

ing measures to address the risk of goods produced from forced labour, from any country, from entering Canadian and global supply chains, and to protect Canadian businesses from becoming unknowingly complicit. We will of course continue to work with all of our partners to adopt more measures if necessary.

[English]

Hon. Erin O'Toole (Leader of the Opposition, CPC): Mr. Speaker, this House spoke with one voice this week: There is a genocide happening in Xinjiang.

Canada has a responsibility to act. There is a bill in the Australian Senate that will ban imports from Xinjiang because of Uighur forced labour. Legislation is being introduced in the U.S. Congress to do the same.

Will the Prime Minister commit to a law to ban the import of products made from forced labour in western China?

Right Hon. Justin Trudeau (Prime Minister, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, Canada is adopting a comprehensive approach to defending the rights of Uighurs with measures to address the risk of forced labour from any country, including China, from entering Canadian and global supply chains and to protect Canadian businesses from becoming unknowingly complicit.

We take this extremely seriously. We have brought measures in and we will look to bring in more measures in partnership with the international community, because that is how we can have the greatest impact and protect the situation for the Uighurs and other ethnic minorities.

* * *

[Translation]

THE ENVIRONMENT

Ms. Anju Dhillon (Dorval—Lachine—LaSalle, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, during their first virtual bilateral meeting yesterday, our Prime Minister and President Biden talked about the work to be done in the coming years. Our two countries agreed on a roadmap for a renewed U.S.-Canada partnership that prioritizes the fight against COVID-19, economic recovery and the global climate threat.

Would our Prime Minister tell the House about the joint commitment to fighting climate change?

Right Hon. Justin Trudeau (Prime Minister, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, I thank the member for Dorval—Lachine—LaSalle for that important question and for her work.

President Biden and I agreed to launch a high-level climate ministerial to coordinate co-operation between the United States and Canada.

We also agreed to take a coordinated approach to accelerating progress towards sustainable, resilient and clean energy infrastructure. We are committed to working with others to increase the scale and speed of the fight against climate change.

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● (1505) [English]

NATIONAL DEFENCE

Mr. James Bezan (Selkirk—Interlake—Eastman, CPC): Mr. Speaker, the defence minister has repeated over and over that he informed all proper authorities about the serious allegations of sexual misconduct by the former chief of the defence staff, but the minister refuses to tell Canadians who those authorities are or even acknowledge that he received the complaint back in 2018, as reported by media.

Was the Prime Minister briefed by the defence minister on the allegations against General Vance when he first received them in 2018?

Right Hon. Justin Trudeau (Prime Minister, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, every person deserves a safe work environment. I first learned of allegations against General Vance in Global News reporting.

We have no tolerance for any form of sexual misconduct. When such allegations are brought to the attention of the Minister of National Defence, he has always taken them seriously and reported to appropriate authorities. We have launched an independent investigation and we have confidence it will go under way appropriately.

Mr. James Bezan (Selkirk—Interlake—Eastman, CPC): Mr. Speaker, allegations of sexual misconduct by our country's top general were shared with the Privy Council Office, which advises and briefs the Prime Minister on just about everything. We know from news reports that the Privy Council Office received information regarding the allegation of sexual misconduct against General Vance back in March of 2018.

On what date did the PCO brief the Prime Minister about this allegation, and did he instruct his defence minister to launch an investigation or did he tell him to just look the other way?

Right Hon. Justin Trudeau (Prime Minister, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, as the prime minister and as the leader of a political party, I have always taken immediate action and taken very seriously any allegations brought to my attention.

As I just said, I first learned of allegations against General Vance in the Global News reporting. We have no tolerance for any form of sexual misconduct and will ensure that all appropriate steps have always been, and will always be, taken.

Ms. Leona Alleslev (Aurora—Oak Ridges—Richmond Hill, CPC): Mr. Speaker, jarring testimony levelled abuse of authority and sexual misconduct allegations against Canada's former top soldier and other senior officers. More officers were implicated as complicit through their silence.

Oral Questions

The defence minister had a duty to investigate and suspend General Vance, but he did nothing. Men and women in uniform have lost confidence that the minister will bring senior officers to justice.

How will the Prime Minister regain the trust of the members of our military when they do not trust the defence minister who failed to protect them?

Right Hon. Justin Trudeau (Prime Minister, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, as a government and as a political party, we have always taken allegations extremely seriously and always followed necessary procedures. When such allegations are brought to the attention of the Minister of National Defence, he has always taken them seriously and reported them, as appropriate, to the appropriate authorities. The steps need to be taken and have been taken. We will continue to ensure that everyone in this country, whether in the military, the public service or anywhere, works in a safe work environment.

HEALTH

Mr. Patrick Weiler (West Vancouver—Sunshine Coast—Sea to Sky Country, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, last fall the opposition leader claimed that Canada was at the back of the line for vaccines and that 2.5 billion people would get vaccinated before Canadians. This was on top of the claim by his health critic that we would not get vaccines until 2030.

The leader of the Conservative Party has been deliberately misleading Canadians at a time of a national health emergency solely to advance his political aims. He is questioning a plan that is clearly working. Starting this past Sunday, over half a million doses of vaccines began arriving.

Can the Prime Minister update us on how this sound procurement plan has ensured we are on our way to delivering six million doses to Canadians by the end of March?

Right Hon. Justin Trudeau (Prime Minister, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the member for West Vancouver—Sunshine Coast—Sea to Sky Country for his question and his extremely hard work.

There are 643,000 doses of vaccines arriving in Canada this week, with another 400,000 doses arriving next week. By the end of this week, 2.5 million doses will have been delivered, with another 3.5 million arriving in the month of March.

That is our plan and has been our plan for months. We will make sure that all Canadians who wish to be vaccinated are vaccinated by September.

Points of Order

• (1510)

PHARMACARE

Ms. Jenny Kwan (Vancouver East, NDP): Mr. Speaker, Canada is the only high-income country with a universal health care system that does not include the universal coverage of prescription drugs. We also pay the third-highest prices in the world for prescription medications. All MPs have a chance to change that by supporting the NDP's universal public pharmacare bill. We need to put partisanship aside and work together for Canadians across the country.

Will the Prime Minister put people before politics, end the Liberals' 24 years of empty rhetoric on universal public pharmacare and follow expert advice so that millions of Canadians can finally get the medications they need?

Right Hon. Justin Trudeau (Prime Minister, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, if the member opposite wanted to put aside politics, she would recognize that no government in a generation has done as much as this government to reduce prescription drug prices.

We will continue to work with the provinces and territories. We will continue to move toward national universal pharmacare. We will not impose some solution on paper that will not work practically for Canadians or the provinces. We will work with them to actually deliver.

It is one thing for political rhetoric to ring out in the House and another for the actions the government has taken, and will continue to take, to actually impact the lives of Canadians for the better.

The Speaker: That is all the time we have today for question period.

We have a couple of points of order, but before we go to them, sometimes this chamber gets emotional and the language gets very strong. I just want to remind hon. members that using unparliamentary language, or bordering on unparliamentary language, is not acceptable. Please be more careful with what is said.

The hon. member for Kingston and the Islands is rising on a point of order.

POINTS OF ORDER

CRIMINAL CODE

Mr. Mark Gerretsen (Kingston and the Islands, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, there have been discussions among the parties and I would like to ask unanimous consent to adopt the following motion. I move that notwithstanding any Standing Orders, special order or usual practice of the House that (a) after the deferred recorded divisions scheduled later today and the completion of introduction of government bills during Routine Proceedings, the House shall proceed to Government Orders and continue to sit beyond the ordinary hour of daily adjournment for the purpose of considering a motion respecting Senate amendments to Bill C-7, an act to amend the Criminal Code (medical assistance in dying); (b) when no member rises to speak or at 12 a.m., whichever is earlier, the debate will be deemed adjourned and the House deemed adjourned until the next sitting day; (c) during the debate tonight no quorum calls, dilatory motions or requests for unanimous consent shall be received by the

Chair; (d) Private Members' Business hour shall be suspended later today; and (e) the Private Members' Business item currently number one in the order of precedence shall remain for the next sitting day and not be rescheduled.

The Speaker: All those opposed to the hon. member moving the motion will please say nay.

Some hon. members: Nay.

The Speaker: We have another point of order for the hon. member for Vancouver Kingsway.

ORAL QUESTIONS

Mr. Don Davies (Vancouver Kingsway, NDP): Mr. Speaker, during my question, my computer malfunctioned and my screen was not working, so I was wondering if I could receive the unanimous consent of my colleagues to re-ask my question.

The Speaker: All those opposed to the hon. member re-asking his question will please say nay.

Some hon. members: Nay.

The Speaker: The hon. member for Sydney—Victoria is rising on a point of order.

ENVIRONMENTALLY CONSCIOUS LABELLING

Mr. Jaime Battiste (Sydney—Victoria, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, there have been discussions among the parties and if you seek it, I hope you will find unanimous consent to adopt the following motion. I move:

That, in relation to Motion No. 35 standing in the name of the member for Sydney—Victoria, the order for the deferred recorded division on the amendment of the member for Willowdale to Motion No. 35 be discharged and the amendment be deemed withdrawn; that Motion No. 35 be amended by replacing subparagraph (b) (3) and (b)(4) with the words "report its findings and recommendation to the House", and that the question on Motion No. 35, as amended, be deemed put and recorded division be deemed requested and deferred until later today at the time originally scheduled for the recorded division on the amendment on Motion No. 35.

The Speaker: All those opposed to the hon. member moving the motion will please say nay.

The House has heard the terms of the motion. All those opposed to the motion will please say nay.

Hearing no dissenting voice, I declare the motion carried.

(Motion agreed to)

The Speaker: We have another point of order. The hon. member for New Westminster—Burnaby.

• (1515)

ORAL QUESTIONS

Mr. Peter Julian (New Westminster—Burnaby, NDP): Mr. Speaker, our practice in this virtual Parliament has been to permit members of Parliament to either redo their statements or redo their questions when there are technical problems. I am convinced, given that it has been the practice and the courtesy extended to members of all parties, that if you seek it you should get unanimous consent for the member for Vancouver Kingsway, whose video feed was not functioning, to have the opportunity to ask his question.

The Speaker: I am going to have to consult the Table officer for that one.

I am going to make a statement on it. The point of order was exactly the same as the one that was just previously brought up. Unless the hon. member can bring up some kind of proof that there have been some discussions that would lead me to a different point, I would have great difficulty in taking it again.

I want to point out to all members that, if there is a malfunction, it is up to the individual members to turn their cameras on. If there is a malfunction that is stated right away, we can take care of it right away, but if it goes through and no one brings it up, then I am afraid the time has passed unless we had unanimous consent.

The hon. member for Banff—Airdrie will speak, and then we will go to the member for Timmins—James Bay.

Mr. Blake Richards (Banff—Airdrie, CPC): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I believe you may have been referring to this in your comments following question period, but the member for West Vancouver—Sunshine Coast—Sea to Sky Country used what would certainly be considered unparliamentary language in referring to the Leader of the Opposition. I am sure he would want to withdraw those comments and apologize, because they were clearly inappropriate.

The Speaker: That is exactly what I was referring to. I will give the hon. member a chance to reply. Is the hon. member for West Vancouver—Sunshine Coast—Sea to Sky Country online?

I do not have a reply or anything yet.

Mr. Blake Richards: Mr. Speaker, it is incredibly disappointing that the member has chosen not to rise, apologize and withdraw comments that were very clearly unparliamentary and inappropriate. I would certainly hope that he will reconsider and make the right choice, which is to stand, apologize and withdraw those comments.

Mr. Patrick Weiler (West Vancouver—Sunshine Coast—Sea to Sky Country, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, I apologize if my language was unparliamentary.

Mr. Jaime Battiste: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I was not sure if it sounded like I said nay, because of the buttons, on the NDP motion. I wonder if it was my screen that may have showed it. I may have inadvertently said something which I did not mean to say. If that was the case, I do want the NDP member to say what the he wanted to say.

The Speaker: No, it was not the hon. member's nay; there were others as well.

Points of Order

The hon. member for Timmins—James Bay.

Mr. Charlie Angus (Timmins—James Bay, NDP): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. One of the really impressive feats that you have done in the House, with this virtual hybrid Parliament, is try to ensure we are all working as collegially as possible. There is not a single member in the House who has not had a technical issue. It would have been very inappropriate during question period for the member for Vancouver Kingsway to have interrupted the House.

I want to put on the record, and I respect your ruling, Mr. Speaker, that it was the member for Ottawa West—Nepean who seemed very adamant that our member was not going to be allowed to speak. It has to be understood that what goes around comes around. The member for Ottawa West—Nepean has decided to deny a member of the House the right to speak because of technical issues—

(1520)

The Speaker: I am afraid that is not the way unanimous consent works. I am sure the hon. member got his point across in any case.

Mr. Robert Oliphant (Don Valley West, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I did have my hand up to speak to the original point of order by the member for Vancouver Kingsway. Maybe I am echoing what has been said, but it seems to me that there has been a tremendous openness and magnanimity in the House toward ensuring that people get a chance to redo their S. O. 31 statements. I do not know whether there has been a question that has had this same response.

I do understand, Mr. Speaker, that you have made a ruling. However, I would like a chance to see if you would consider retesting the House to see whether there is unanimous consent. I am not sure the House was aware of what you were asking at that time. I would ask if you would possibly reconsider that.

The Speaker: I would point out for the hon. member that it was not an S. O. 31; it was a question during Oral Questions.

Mr. Robert Oliphant: Mr. Speaker, I do understand that. I just do not know whether you had ruled on a question before. I know you have ruled on S. O. 31s before.

The Speaker: Normally with the questions, we deal with them right away, not after the fact. That has been the rule of thumb in dealing with that. To test over again, we have already tried once and the second time.

Mr. Daniel Blaikie (Elmwood—Transcona, NDP): Mr. Speaker, in respect to the same point, I ask that you might give us a little more guidance in respect of your ruling.

One of the things that is true of question period is that members cannot raise points of order during that time. Particularly in respect of a technical issue with the camera, it may not be obvious to the member who is speaking that his or her camera is not on and other members are not able to raise points of order.

Points of Order

In the event that a member does not notice that a technical difficulty has occurred, the nature of which he or she cannot be aware while delivering his or her question, how are we supposed to deal with it in the moment, if we cannot raise the problem in the moment?

We need some clear guidance from you, Mr. Speaker. This may well be a problem again. It will not be conducive to peace in the House if technical problems continue to interrupt members' ability to ask questions in the appropriate way.

The Speaker: That is a very good point. I will take that under advisement, and I will inform the other chair occupants that should the camera not be on when someone is asking a question, we will stop the member right there and see if we can get the technical difficulty resolved. We will take that as a responsibility of the Chair, and I will speak for all the chair occupants on that one.

I want to thank the member for bringing that up. It is a concern.

I will be honest with members that it was going so smoothly that I did not want to interrupt him. The question was very well put.

Hon. Ed Fast (Abbotsford, CPC): Mr. Speaker, if I could perhaps enhance the discussion that we have just had about this point of order, since you are going to take this back and get back to us on exactly how these kinds of situations will be dealt with going forward, I would also ask you to take into account whether it is the House's discretion and decision as to whether a technical glitch will be remedied by allowing a member to speak again or whether that falls exclusively within your discretion. It being a technical glitch is completely out of the control of the member who is speaking.

I would ask you, Mr. Speaker, as part of your deliberations, to return to us and rule on that as well.

• (1525)

The Speaker: The member did ask his question, and it did get across quite clearly. It is the camera that was not on. As I mentioned earlier, as chair occupants, we will take on the responsibility to bring it up when it happens. Again, it was a case that the Chair did not want to interrupt, because it was going so smoothly, but in future we will look out for any cameras that are dysfunctional and we will stop it then and resolve the technical issue.

Mr. Greg McLean (Calgary Centre, CPC): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I will appeal this as well, on behalf of the member who wanted to be seen.

You do not recognize members, Mr. Speaker, whom you cannot see when they are voting, so this does seem to be a bit of a disconnect. You also rule when our microphones are not in the right place so we can be heard for interpretation. Therefore, it does seem to be a bit of an outlier in how you are interpreting this. It would have been right to interrupt the member at that point in time.

Seeing as how he was not interrupted so that his question was properly posed and we could see him properly posing his question, I would like us to reconsider providing him the ability to do that now, please.

The Speaker: I am afraid that we have already discussed this one and ruled on it, so we will have to move on to the next one.

The hon. member for Vancouver Kingsway.

Mr. Don Davies (Vancouver Kingsway, NDP): Mr. Speaker, first, I would like to thank all my hon. colleagues for their support in this.

I am going to also raise a question of privilege, because I have a right not only to be heard but to be seen. There has been a totally inconsistent application of this. Just in the course of the last half hour, Mr. Speaker, you interrupted a member and advised her to bring her microphone down. You did not interrupt me to let me know I was not on the screen.

Also, to emphasize other points that have been made, Mr. Speaker, you have not sought unanimous consent when you have allowed other members to restate whatever their intervention has been, and I see no difference in principle between an S. O. 31 and a question in question period. The truth is that during question period, we are not allowed to raise points of order. I was not aware that I was not on the visual screen until almost the end of question period. At that point, I did not raise it as a point of order because I thought I could not. I also was in the bottom third of question period.

For all those reasons, Mr. Speaker, and with great respect, I think you have the authority just to allow me to ask my question again when this is a technical problem. We are in uncharted territory here. This never happens when we are in a normal sitting of the House.

As my colleague said, Mr. Speaker, if you are going to ask for unanimous consent every time members have a technical problem and their computer malfunctions or they are not seen and if the hon. colleagues in the House are not going to give unanimous consent consistently, then we are never going to give unanimous consent, and that just violates the privileges of every person in the House.

Frankly, to allow me to have asked a 35-second question when my screen was not on and I was not aware of it is a violation of my privilege to ask a question and to be heard and seen. I do not see any reason why you, Mr. Speaker, cannot retest the House. I believe you would get the unanimous consent of my colleagues, but I am not sure you need it. You could have just allowed me to ask that question, just like you allow people to redo their S. O. 31s when there is a technical problem interrupting that intervention.

The Speaker: We are getting to a point where there is a challenge to the Chair.

I just want to refresh the hon. member's memory. When normally there is a technical issue, we do allow points of orders during question period. That is something we have allowed since the beginning, because technically we want to make sure that everything works. The point of order was not raised until after question period was over, and that is where the difference lies. That is why I had to go back to the House to see if we had unanimous consent. That is a clarification.

I will take the hon. member's point under advisement and see where it lands and come back if I deem it necessary.

The hon. member for Kingston and the Islands.

• (1530)

Mr. Mark Gerretsen (Kingston and the Islands, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, if you are going to take that under advisement, I think there is something worthy of noting. Before I say that, I do want to congratulate you and, indeed, all three other chair occupants, who have done an exceptional job, given the circumstances. I doubt that when you were elected to do this, over a year ago, you ever imagined you would be doing it this way. All four of you have done an incredible job.

To add to this point of order, for your consideration when you come back with some form of ruling, is the fact that on all occasions you have always asked for unanimous consent to redo a statement. I have sat in the House. I see the House leader from the opposition nodding his head in agreement. Indeed, this issue occurred after question period was over.

I believe that you have done a very fair job in executing this to date and I thank you for that.

The Speaker: I want to remind the hon. members that they cannot refer to someone's presence in the chamber. That is a point of order.

We have another point of order. The right hon. Prime Minister has a point of order.

Right Hon. Justin Trudeau (Prime Minister, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, you mentioned that you could not rule twice on a point of order unless you felt that things had materially changed.

An hon. member: He does not have a headset on.

Right Hon. Justin Trudeau: I suspect that if you ask for unanimous consent on the member for Vancouver Kingsway's request to repeat his question, you will find—

An hon. member: Does he not need a headset?

The Speaker: I will ask the right hon. Prime Minister to start his statement over again.

I would ask the two hon. members in particular, without naming them, to not interrupt while he is asking his question, because it does cut the sound off and we do not hear what is being said.

The right hon. Prime Minister.

Right Hon. Justin Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, in your response—

An hon. member: Point of order, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: We are in the middle of a point of order on a point of order.

Mr. John Williamson (New Brunswick Southwest, CPC): Mr. Speaker, this is a technical point of order. We have had discussions at the official languages committee on how interpreters are not able to interpret when they cannot hear the member. It is difficult for them to provide translation.

An hon. member: The member is not wearing his headset.

Points of Order

The Speaker: Order.

We have a point of order stating that someone is not wearing a headset by someone who is not wearing a headset. I wanted to point that out.

The right hon. Prime Minister, and then we will go to the hon. member for Louis-Saint-Laurent.

Right Hon. Justin Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, I am speaking into a PCO-approved microphone that I was assured is fine to use. It is in my office here on the Hill.

My original point of order was that you made a ruling that you could not rule twice on the same point of order that you had already ruled on, unless you believed that something had materially changed in the likely outcome of the unanimous consent motion. I strongly believe that if you ask the House for unanimous consent on the motion by the member for Vancouver Kingsway to be able to repeat his question on video for the record, you will find that no one from the Liberal Party or the government side will oppose that unanimous consent motion.

Mr. Gérard Deltell: Mr. Speaker, with all the respect I have for the Right Hon. Prime Minister, unfortunately his comments should not be taken into consideration.

[Translation]

He did not follow the rules. I do not care if he was using a microphone that came from NASA. He needs to use the microphone provided by the House. The House gave us all the equipment we need to do our work wherever we are, be it in the House, in our offices a few feet away from here, in our riding offices or at home.

With all due respect to the Prime Minister, no matter what microphone he has, he needs to use the one provided by the House of Commons.

● (1535)

The Speaker: I have no way of knowing what microphone the Prime Minister used, so I cannot rule one way or another for now. However, the hon. member for Louis-Saint-Laurent makes a good point. I will have to look into that.

The hon. member for Kingston and the Islands.

[English]

Mr. Mark Gerretsen: Mr. Speaker, I believe, if you seek it, you will find unanimous consent to allow the member for Vancouver Kingsway to repeat his question and the Prime Minister will answer it

The Speaker: Is that agreed?

Some hon. members: Agreed.

The Speaker: The hon. member for Vancouver Kingsway.

Mr. Don Davies (Vancouver Kingsway, NDP): Mr. Speaker, first, I will thank the Prime Minister for his graciousness.

The facts are clear: Millions of Canadians cannot afford the medicines their doctors prescribe. Many get sicker and even die from this lack of basic health care. The reality is that drug prices have increased every year of the government's mandate and the NDP pharmacare bill would work exactly like our public health care system does by allowing provinces to participate if they wish.

The Prime Minister says he supports pharmacare and will deliver it. Will he vote for our bill today to make universal public pharmacare a reality for every Canadian?

Right Hon. Justin Trudeau (Prime Minister, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, no Canadian should have to make a choice between buying medication and putting food on their table. Therefore, we will continue to work toward national universal pharmacare. We will do so in respect of the Constitution and in partnership with the provinces and not impose a political decision from Ottawa. We believe in partnership as a path forward, and that is how we will deliver on national universal pharmacare.

The Speaker: I want to thank hon, members. That was certainly an interesting time.

The hon. member for Red Deer—Lacombe has a point of order.

Mr. Blaine Calkins: Mr. Speaker, not to belabour the issue, but my understanding is that the member for West Vancouver-Sunshine Coast—Sea to Sky Country did not withdraw his comments from the record and his apology was not unconditional. I would ask for clarification on that.

Some clarification for my colleague from Vancouver Kingsway that might help in the future is that I think the rule and the principle is that the camera must be on to determine authenticity and ensure that it is the actual MP who is actually voting, speaking or, in this particular case, asking a question. Without the presence of the camera, the authenticity cannot be determined. We need to ensure that, and I think it will be a helpful guiding rule in the future to make sure that we can ensure that authenticity.

The Speaker: As I mentioned earlier, starting now, we will make sure that the Speaker, the person in the chair, will make sure that the camera does work.

On the other matter, I will take it under advisement and return to the House if necessary.

It is my duty, pursuant to Standing Order 38, to inform the House that the questions to be raised tonight at the time of adjournment are as follows: the hon. member for Edmonton Strathcona, Canadian Heritage; the hon. member for Calgary Centre, International Trade; and the hon. member for Bow River, Small Business.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

(1540) [English]

CANADA PHARMACARE ACT

The House resumed from February 17 consideration of the motion that Bill C-213, An Act to enact the Canada Pharmacare Act, be read the second time and referred to a committee.

The Speaker: It being 3:38 p.m., pursuant to an order made on Monday, January 25, the House will now proceed to the taking of the deferred recorded division on the motion at second reading stage of Bill C-213 under Private Members' Business.

Call in the members.

(1620)

[Translation]

(The House divided on the motion, which was negatived on the following division:)

(Division No. 57)

YEAS

Members

Ashton Angus Bachrach Atwin

Blaikie Blaney (North Island-Powell River)

Boulerice Cannings Collins Davies Duvall Erskine-Smith Gazan Garrison Harris Hughes Johns Julian Kwan Lobb Long MacGregor Manly Masse Mathyssen May (Saanich-Gulf Islands) McPherson

Qaqqaq Singh Wilson-Raybould - 32

NAYS

Sangha

Members

Aboultaif Aitchison Albas Alghabra Allesley Allison Anand Amos Arnold Anandasangaree Arseneault Arya Badawey Bagnell Bains Baker Baldinelli Barlow Barsalou-Duval Barrett Battiste Beaulieu Bendayan Beech Benzen Bennett Bergeron Bergen Berthold Bérubé Bessette Bezan Bibeau Bittle

Blanev (Bellechasse-Les Etchemins-Lévis) Blanchette-Joncas

Block Blois Boudrias Bragdon Brassard Bratina Brunelle-Ducenne Brière Calkins Carrie Casev

Blair

Chagger Champagne Champoux

Oliphant

O'Toole

Perron

Raves

Poilievre

Qualtrough

Paul-Hus

Charbonneau Chen O'Connell Chong O'Regan Cormier Cooper Patzer Cumming Dabrusin Pauzé Dalton Damoff Plamondon Dancho Davidson Powlowski DeBellefeuille Deltell Ratansi Desbiens d'Entremont Redekopp Desilets Dhaliwal Reid Dhillon Diotte Richards Doherty Dong Rodriguez Dowdall Dreeshen Romanado Drouin Dubourg Ruff Duguid Duncan (Stormont—Dundas—South Glengarry) Sajjan El-Khoury Samson Falk (Battlefords-Lloydminster) Epp Falk (Provencher) Saroya Fillmore Scarpaleggia Fergus Finley (Haldimand-Norfolk) Schiefke Findlay (South Surrey-White Rock) Schulte Fisher Fonseca Serré Fortier Fortin Fragiskatos Fraser Shanahan Freeland Gallant Shields Garneau Gaudreau Shipley Généreux Genuis Gerretsen Gill Simms Gladu Godin Sorbara Gould Gourde Spengemann Gray Guilbeault Steinley Hajdu Hallan Strahl Harder Hardie Sweet Holland Hoback Tassi Housefather Hussen Therrien Hutchings Iacono Trudeau Jaczek Ien Turnbull Jansen Jeneroux Van Rynen Joly Jordan Van Popta Jowhari Kelloway Vandenbeld Kelly Kent Vidal Khalid Khera Vignola Kitchen Kmiec Koutrakis Kram Vis Kurek Kusie Warkentin Kusmierczyk Lake Webber Lalonde Lambropoulos Wilkinson Lametti Lamoureux Wong Lattanzio Larouche Young Lauzon Lawrence Zahid Lebouthillier Zuberi-Lefebvre Lehoux Lewis (Essex) Lemire Lightbound Liepert

Regan Rempel Garner Robillard Rogers Rood Sahota (Calgary Skyview) Sahota (Brampton North) Saini Saks Sarai Savard-Tremblay Scheen Schmale Seeback Sgro Sheehan Shin Sidhu (Brampton East) Sidhu (Brampton South) Simard Sloan Soroka Stanton Ste-Marie

Stubbs Tabbara Thériault Tochor Trudel Uppal van Koeverden Vandal Vecchio Viersen Virani Wagantall Waugh Weiler Williamson Yip Yurdiga Zimmer

PAIRED

Nil

The Speaker: I declare the motion defeated.

* * *

• (1625)

CITIZENSHIP ACT

The House resumed from February 18 consideration of the motion that Bill C-223, An Act to amend the Citizenship Act (adequate knowledge of French in Quebec), be read the second time and referred to a committee.

The Assistant Deputy Speaker (Mrs. Alexandra Mendès): Pursuant to order made on Monday, January 25, the House will now proceed to the taking of the deferred recorded division on the motion at second reading stage of Bill C-223, under Private Members' Business.

MacAulay (Cardigan) MacKenzie
MacKinnon (Gatineau) Maguire
Maloney Marcil
Martel Martinez Ferrada
May (Cambridge) Mazier
MacColombridge) Mazier

McCauley (Edmonton West) McColeman
McCrimmon McDonald
McGuinty McKay

Llovd

Louis (Kitchener-Conestoga)

 McKenna
 McKinnon (Coquitlam—Port Coquitlam)

 McLean
 McLeod (Kamloops—Thompson—Cariboo)

Longfield

Lukiwski

McLeod (Northwest Territories) Melillo
Mendès Mendicino
Michaud Miller
Monsef Moore
Morantz Morrison
Morrissey Motz
Murray Nater
Ng Normandin

[English]

Mr. Damien Kurek: Madam Speaker, on a point of order, I apologize, but the interpretation for the question was not working.

The Assistant Deputy Speaker (Mrs. Alexandra Mendès): The hon. member is quite correct. Actually, it is not that the interpreters missed it, but that I did not read it, so I will go back to that. My apologies.

[Chair read text of motion to the House]

• (1710)

[Translation]

(The House divided on the motion, which was negatived on the following division:)

(Division No. 58)

YEAS

Members

Aboultaif Aitchison Albas Allesley Allison Arnold Baldinelli Barlow Barrett Barsalou-Duval Beaulieu Benzen Bergen Bergeron Berthold Bérubé Blanchet

Blanchette-Joncas Blaney (Bellechasse-Les Etchemins-Lévis)

Boudrias Bragdon Brunelle-Duceppe Calkins Carrie Chabot Champoux Charbonneau Chiu Cumming Cooper Dalton Dancho DeBellefeuille Davidson Deltell d'Entremont Desbiens Desilets Diotte Doherty Dowdall Dreeshen

Duncan (Stormont—Dundas—South Glengarry) Epp Falk (Battlefords-Lloydminster)

Findlay (South Surrey-White Rock)

Finley (Haldimand-Norfolk) Fortin Gaudreau Gallant Généreux Genuis Gill Gladu Gourde Godin Hallan Grav Hoback Harder Jansen Jeneroux Kelly Kent Kitchen Kmiec Kram Kurek Kusie Lake Larouche Lawrence Lehoux Lemire Lewis (Essex) Lloyd Lobb Lukiwski MacKenzie Maguire Marcil Martel

McCauley (Edmonton West) McColeman McLean

Melillo

Michaud Moore Morantz Morrison Motz Nater Normandin Patzer

McLeod (Kamloops-Thompson-Cariboo)

Paul-Hus Perron Plamondon Poilievre Rayes Redekopp Reid Rempel Garner Richards Ruff Rood Sahota (Calgary Skyview) Saroya Scheer Savard-Tremblay Schmale Seeback Shields Shin Shipley Simard Sloan Soroka Stanton Steinley Ste-Marie Stubbs Thériault Tochor Therrien Uppal Van Popta Vecchio Viersen Vidal Vignola Vis Wagantall Warkentin Webber Waugh

Wong Zimmer- - 147

NAYS

Yurdiga

Members

Alghabra Amos Anand Anandasangaree Angus Arseneault Arya Ashton Atwin Bachrach Badawey Bagnell Bains Baker Beech Battiste Bendayan Bennett Bessette Bittle Blair

Blaney (North Island-Powell River)

Lambropoulos

Boulerice Blois Brière Bratina Cannings Carr Casey Chagger Champagne Chen Collins Cormier Dabrusin Damoff Davies Dhaliwal Dhillon Dong Dubourg Drouin Duguid Duvall Easter El-Khoury Ellis Erskine-Smith Fergus Fillmore Finnigan Fisher Fonseca Fortier Fragiskatos Fraser Freeland Garneau Garrison Gazan Gerretsen Gould Green Guilbeault Hajdu Hardie Harris Holland Housefather Hughes Hussen Hutchings Iacono Jaczek Johns Joly Jordan Jowhari Khalid Kelloway Koutrakis Khera Kusmierczyk Kwan

Lalonde

Anandasangaree Lamoureux Anand Lattanzio Lauzon Angus Arseneault LeBlanc Lebouthillier Ashton Arya Lefebvre Lightbound Bachrach Atwin Long Longfield Badawev Bagnell Louis (Kitchener-Conestoga) MacAulay (Cardigan) Bains Baker MacGregor MacKinnon (Gatineau) Battiste Beech Maloney Manly Bendayan Bennett Martinez Ferrada Masse Bessette Bibeau Rittle

MathyssenMay (Cambridge)May (Saanich—Gulf Islands)McCrimmonMcDonaldMcGuinty

McKay McKenna McKinnon (Coquitlam—Port Coquitlam) McLeod (Northwest Territories)

McPherson Mendicino Monsef Miller Morrissey Murray O'Connell Ng Oliphant O'Regan Petitpas Taylor Powlowski Qaqqaq Qualtrough Ratansi Regan Robillard Rodriguez Rogers Romanado Sahota (Brampton North) Saini Sajjan Saks Samson Sangha Sarai Scarpaleggia Schiefke Serré Shanahan

Sheehan Sidhu (Brampton East) Sidhu (Brampton South) Sorbara Spengemann Tassi Trudeau Van Bynen Turnbull van Koeverden Vandal Vandenbeld Virani Wilkinson Weiler Williamson Wilson-Raybould Yip Young Zuberi- - 172 Zahid

PAIRED

Nil

The Assistant Deputy Speaker (Mrs. Alexandra Mendès): I declare the motion defeated.

* * *

[English]

ENVIRONMENTALLY CONSCIOUS LABELLING

The House resumed from February 19 consideration of the mo-

The Assistant Deputy Speaker (Mrs. Alexandra Mendès): Pursuant to order made earlier today, the House will now proceed to the taking of the deferred recorded division on Motion No. 35, as amended, under Private Members' Business in the name of the member for Sydney—Victoria.

• (1750)

Alghabra

(The House divided on the motion, which was agreed to on the following division:)

(Division No. 59)

YEAS Members Amos

Blaikie Blair Blaney (North Island-Powell River) Blois Boulerice Bratina Brière Cannings Carr Chagger Casey Champagne Chen Collins Cormier Dabrusin Damoff Dhaliwal Dhillon Dong Drouin Dubourg Duguid Duvall Dzerowicz Easter Ehsassi El-Khoury Ellis Erskine-Smith Fergus

Fillmore Finnigan Fisher Fonseca Fortier Fragiskatos Fraser Freeland Garneau Garrison Gazan Gerretsen Gould Green Guilbeault Hajdu Hardie Harris Holland Housefather Hughes Hussen Hutchings Iacono Jaczek Ien Johns Joly Jowhari Jordan

Koutrakis Kusmierczyk
Kwan Lalonde
Lambropoulos Lametti
Lamoureux Lattanzio
Lauzon LeBlanc
Lebouthillier Lefebvre
Lightbound Long

Julian

Khalid

Longfield Louis (Kitchener—Conestoga)

Kelloway

Khera

 MacAulay (Cardigan)
 MacGregor

 MacKinnon (Gatineau)
 Maloney

 Manly
 Martinez Ferrada

 Masse
 Mathyssen

 May (Cambridge)
 May (Saanich—Gulf Islands)

McCrimmon McDonald McGuinty McKay

McGuinty McKay
McKenna McKinnon (Coquitlam—Port Coquitlam)

McLeod (Northwest Territories) McPherson Mendicino Miller Monsef Morrissey Murray O'Connell Oliphant Petitpas Taylor O'Regan Qaqqaq Qualtrough Ratansi Robillard Regan Rodriguez Rogers

Romanado Sahota (Brampton North)

 Saini
 Sajjan

 Saks
 Samson

 Sangha
 Sarai

 Scarpaleggia
 Schiefke

Richards

Private Members' Business

Schulte Serré Shanahan Sgro Sheehan Sidhu (Brampton East) Sidhu (Brampton South) Simms Sorbara Spengemann Tassi Trudeau Turnbull Van Bynen van Koeverden Vandal Vandenbeld Vaughan Virani Weiler Wilkinson Wilson-Raybould Young Zahid Zuberi- - 174

NAYS

Members

Aboultaif Aitchison Albas Alleslev Allison Arnold Baldinelli Barlow Barsalou-Duval Beaulieu Benzen Bergeron Bergen Berthold Bérubé Blanchet Bezan

Blanchette-Joncas Blaney (Bellechasse—Les Etchemins—Lévis)

Block Boudrias Bragdon Brassard Brunelle-Duceppe Calkins Carrie Chabot Champoux Charbonneau Chiu Chong Cumming Cooper Dalton Dancho DeBellefeuille Davidson d'Entremont Desbiens Desilets Doherty Diotte Dowdall Dreeshen Duncan (Stormont-Dundas-South Glengarry) Epp

Falk (Battlefords—Lloydminster) Falk (Provencher)

Fast Findlay (South Surrey—White Rock)

Finley (Haldimand-Norfolk) Fortin Gallant Gaudreau Généreux Genuis Gill Gladu Godin Gourde Hallan Gray Harder Hoback Jeneroux Jansen Kellv Kitchen Kmiec Kurek Kram Kusie Lake Larouche Lawrence Lehoux Lemire Lewis (Essex) Liepert Lloyd Lobb Lukiwski MacKenzie

Martel Mazier
McCauley (Edmonton West) McColeman

Maguire

McLean McLeod (Kamloops—Thompson—Cariboo)

Marcil

Michaud Melillo Morantz Moore Morrison Motz Normandin Nater Patzer Paul-Hus Pauzé Perron Poilievre Plamondon Raves Redekopp Reid Rempel Garner Ruff Sahota (Calgary Skyview)
Saroya Savard-Tremblay
Scheer Schmale
Seeback Shields
Shin Shipley

Simard Sloan Soroka Stanton Steinley Ste-Marie Strahl Stubbs Sweet Thériault Therrien Tochor Trudel Uppal Van Popta Vecchio Vidal Viersen Vignola Vis Wagantall Warkentin Waugh Webbei Williamson Wong

PAIRED

Zimmer-

Nil

Yurdiga

The Assistant Deputy Speaker (Mrs. Alexandra Mendès): I declare the motion, as amended, carried.

• (1755)

Hon. Mark Holland: Madam Speaker, by all that is good and merciful, I believe that if you seek it, you will find consent for the House to now suspend and then reconvene in 15 minutes for the taking of the remaining votes.

The Assistant Deputy Speaker (Mrs. Alexandra Mendès): Is that agreed?

Some hon. members: Agreed.

The Assistant Deputy Speaker (Mrs. Alexandra Mendès): We will suspend.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

(The sitting of the House was suspended at 5:55 p.m.)

SITTING RESUMED

(The House resumed at 6:11 p.m.)

* * *

• (1810)
[*Translation*]

GREENHOUSE GAS POLLUTION PRICING ACT

The House resumed from February 22 consideration of the motion that Bill C-206, An Act to amend the Greenhouse Gas Pollution Pricing Act (qualifying farming fuel), be read the second time and referred to a committee.

The Assistant Deputy Speaker (Mrs. Carol Hughes): Pursuant to an order made on Monday, January 25, the House will now proceed to the taking of the deferred recorded division on the motion at second reading stage of Bill C-206 under Private Members' Business.

• (1850)

[English]

(The House divided on the motion, which was agreed to on the following division:)

Richards Rood (Division No. 60) Sahota (Calgary Skyview) Ruff YEAS Sangha Saroya Savard-Tremblay Scheer Members Schmale Seeback Shields Shin Aboultaif Aitchison Shipley Simard Albas Alleslev Sloan Allison Angus Soroka Arnold Ashton Stanton Steinley Atwin Bachrach Ste-Marie Strahl Baldinelli Barlow Stubbs Sweet Barsalou-Duval Thériault Therrien Barrett Beaulieu Benzen Tochor Trudel Van Popta Bergen Bergeron Uppal Vecchio Vidal Berthold Bérubé Viersen Vignola Blaikie Bezan Wagantall Blanchet Blanchette-Joncas Warkentin Blaney (North Island-Powell River) Blaney (Bellechasse-Les Etchemins-Lévis) Waugh Williamson Webber Block Boudrias Wilson-Raybould Wong Boulerice Bragdon Yurdiga Zimmer- - 178 Brassard Brunelle-Duceppe Calkins Cannings **NAYS** Carrie Chabot Champoux Charbonneau Members Chiu Chong Alghabra Amos Collins Cooper Anand Anandasangaree Cumming Dalton Arseneault Dancho Davidson Arya Bagnell Badawey DeBellefeuille Deltell d'Entremont Desbiens Bains Baker Desilets Diotte Battiste Beech Bendayan Bennett Doherty Dowdall Bessette Ribean Dreeshen Drouin Bittle Blair Duncan (Stormont—Dundas—South Glengarry) Duvall Falk (Battlefords-Lloydminster) Blois Bratina Epp Brière Falk (Provencher) Carr Fast Chagger Findlay (South Surrey-White Rock) Finley (Haldimand-Norfolk) Casey Champagne Chen Fortin Gallant Cormier Dabrusin Gandrean Garrison Damoff Dhaliwal Gazan Généreux Dhillon Dong Genuis Gill Duguid Dubourg Gladu Gourde Gray Green Dzerowicz Easter El-Khoury Hallan Harder Ehsassi Harris Hoback Ellis Erskine-Smith Jeneroux Fergus Fillmore Jansen Johns Julian Finnigan Fisher Kelly Fonseca Fortier Kent Fragiskatos Fraser Kitchen Kmiec Freeland Garneau Kurek Kram Gerretsen Gould Kusie Kwan Larouche Guilbeault Hajdu Lake Hardie Holland Lehoux Lawrence Housefather Lewis (Essex) Hussen Lemire Hutchings Liepert Llovd Iacono Lobb Lukiwski Ien Jaczek Joly Jordan MacGregor MacKenzie Maguire Manly Jowhari Kelloway Khalid Khera Marcil Martel Masse Mathyssen Koutrakis Kusmierczyk May (Saanich-Gulf Islands) Mazier Lalonde Lambropoulos McCauley (Edmonton West) McColeman Lametti Lamoureux McLean McLeod (Kamloops—Thompson—Cariboo) Lattanzio Lauzon McPherson Melillo LeBlanc Lebouthillier Michaud Lefebvre Lightbound Moore Longfield Morantz Morrison Long Motz Louis (Kitchener-Conestoga) MacAulay (Cardigan) Nater Normandin Patzer MacKinnon (Gatineau) Maloney May (Cambridge) Paul-Hus Pauzé Martinez Ferrada Perron Plamondon McCrimmon McDonald Poilievre McGuinty McKenna Qaqqaq

Raves

Reid

Redekopp Rempel Garner McKinnon (Coquitlam—Port Coquitlam)

Mendès

McLeod (Northwest Territories)

Mendicino

DeBellefeuille

Qaqqaq

Simard

Trudel

Thériault

Private Members' Business

Monsef Morrissey Murray O'Connell Ng Oliphant O'Regan Petitpas Taylor Powlowski Qualtrough Ratansi Robillard Regan Rodriguez Rogers Romanado Sahota (Brampton North) Saini Sajjan Saks Samson Sarai Scarpaleggia Schiefke Schulte Serré Sheehar Sidhu (Brampton East) Sidhu (Brampton South) Simms Sorbara Spengemann Tabbara Turnbull Van Bynen van Koeverden Vandal Vandenbeld Vaughan Weiler Virani Wilkinson Yip Young Zahid

PAIRED

Nil

Zuberi- - 145

The Assistant Deputy Speaker (Mrs. Carol Hughes): I declare the motion carried. Accordingly, the bill stands referred to the Standing Committee on Agriculture and Agri-Food.

(Bill read the second time and referred to a committee)

* * *

• (1855)

AERONAUTICS ACT

The House resumed from February 23 consideration of the motion that Bill C-225, An Act to amend the Aeronautics Act, the Fishing and Recreational Harbours Act and other Acts (application of provincial law), be read the second time and referred to a committee.

The Assistant Deputy Speaker (Mrs. Carol Hughes): Pursuant to order made on Monday, January 25, the House will now proceed to the taking of the deferred recorded division on the motion at second reading stage of Bill C-225 under Private Members' Business.

• (1935)

[Translation]

(The House divided on the motion, which was negatived on the following division:)

(Division No. 61)

YEAS

Members

Angus Bachrach Barsalou-Duval Beaulieu Bergeron Bérubé Blanchet Blanchette-Joncas Blaney (North Island-Powell River) Boudrias Boulerice Brunelle-Duceppe Chabot Cannings Charbonneau Champoux Collins Davies

Desilets Duvall Fortin Garrison Gaudreau Gazan Gill Green Harris Johns Julian Kwan Larouche Lemire MacGregor Manly Marcil Masse Mathyssen May (Saanich-Gulf Islands) McPherson Michaud Normandin Pauzé Plamondon Perron

NAYS

Savard-Tremblay

Vignola- - 56

Ste-Marie

Therrien

Desbiens

Members

Aboultaif Albas Alghabra Alleslev Allison Anand Amos Anandasangaree Arnold Arseneault Arya Bagnell Badawey Bains Baker Baldinelli Barlow Barrett Battiste Beech Bendavan Bennett Benzen Bergen Berthold Bessette Bezan Bibeau Bittle

Blaney (Bellechasse-Les Etchemins-Lévis)

Block Bratina Brassard Calkins Brière Carrie Carr Chagger Casey Champagne Chen Chiu Chong Cooper Cormier Cumming Dabrusin Dalton Damoff Dancho Davidson Deltell d'Entremont Dhaliwal Dhillon Doherty Dong Dowdall Dreeshen Drouin Dubourg Duguid Duncan (Stormont—Dundas—South Glengarry) Dzerowicz Ehsassi Easter El-Khoury Ellis

Epp Erskine-Smith Falk (Battlefords-Lloydminster) Falk (Provencher) Fast Fergus

Fillmore

Findlay (South Surrey-White Rock) Finley (Haldimand-Norfolk) Finnigan

Fisher Fonseca Fortier Fragiskatos Freeland Fraser Gallant Garneau Généreux Genuis Gerretsen Gladu Godin Gould Gourde Grav Guilbeault Haidu Hallan Harder

Routine Proceedings

Hoback Holland Housefather Hutchings Hussen Iacono Ien Jaczek Jansen Joly Jeneroux Jordan Kelloway Kelly Kent Khalid Khera Kitchen Kmiec Koutrakis Kram Kusie Kurek Kusmierczyk Lake Lambropoulos Lalonde Lamoureux Lattanzio Lauzon

LeBlanc

Lefebvre

McCauley (Edmonton West)

Lewis (Essex) Lehoux Lightbound Liepert Lobb Lloyd Longfield Long Louis (Kitchener-Conestoga) Lukiwski MacAulay (Cardigan) MacKenzie MacKinnon (Gatineau) Maguire Maloney Martel Martinez Ferrada May (Cambridge)

Lawrence

Mazier

 McCrimmon
 McDonald

 McGuinty
 McKenna

 McKinnon (Coquitlam—Port Coquitlam)
 McLean

McLeod (Kamloops—Thompson—Cariboo) McLeod (Northwest Territories)

Mendès Mendicino Monsef Moore Morantz Morrison Morrissey Motz Nater Murray O'Connell Nσ Oliphant O'Regan Patzer Paul-Hus Petitpas Taylor Poilievre Powlowski Qualtrough Ratansi Rayes Redekopp Regan Rempel Garner Reid Richards Robillard Rodriguez Rogers

Romanado Rood Ruff Sahota (Calgary Skyview)

Sahota (Brampton North) Saini Saks Sajjan Sangha Samson Sarai Sarova Scarpaleggia Scheer Schiefke Schmale Schulte Seeback Serré Sgro Shanahan Sheehan Shields Shin

Shipley Sidhu (Brampton East)

Sidhu (Brampton South) Simms Soroka Spengemann Steinley Strahl Stubbs Sweet Tabbara Tassi Turnbull Tochor Uppal Van Bynen van Koeverden Van Popta Vandenbeld Vandal Vaughan Vecchio Vidal Viersen

Virani Vis
Wagantall Warkentin
Waugh Webber
Weiler Wilkinson
Williamson Wilson-Raybould
Wong Yip
Young Yurdiga
Zahid Zimmer

PAIRED

Nil

Zuberi- - 265

The Assistant Deputy Speaker (Mrs. Carol Hughes): I declare the motion lost.

I wish to inform the House that pursuant to Standing Order 30(4) (b), the House shall continue to sit to complete the ordinary daily routine of business up to and including "Introduction of Government Bills", whereupon the House shall adjourn.

[English]

Furthermore, I wish to inform the House that because of the delay, there will be no Private Members' Business hour today, pursuant to Standing Orders 30(7) and 30(4)(b). The order has been rescheduled to the next sitting of the House.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

● (1940) [English]

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Mr. Robert Oliphant (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Lib.): Madam Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 32(2), I have the honour to table, in both official languages, the treaties entitled: "Memorandum of Understanding Between the Government of Canada and the Government of the United States of America Concerning Cooperation on the Civil Lunar Gateway", done at Saint-Hubert and at Kennedy Space Center on November 12 and 15, 2020; "Amendments to Annex I of the International Convention Against Doping in Sport", notified on October 1, 2020; "Amendments to Annex II of the International Convention Against Doping in Sport", notified on October 1, 2020; and "Agreement Between Canada and the Italian Republic Concerning Youth Mobility", done at Ottawa and Rome on December 11, 2020; at Rome on January 20, 2021; and at Toronto on February 3, 2021.

* * *

[Translation]

CRIMINAL CODE

Hon. David Lametti (Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada, Lib.) moved for leave to introduce C-23, An Act to amend the Criminal Code and the Identification of Criminals Act and to make related amendments to other Acts (COVID-19 response and other measures).

(Motions deemed adopted, bill read the first time and printed)

Routine Proceedings

[English]

The Assistant Deputy Speaker (Mrs. Carol Hughes): It being 7:42 p.m., pursuant to Standing Order 30(4)(b) the motion that the House do now adjourn is deemed to have been adopted. According-

ly, the House stands adjourned until tomorrow at $10\ a.m.$ pursuant to Standing Order 24(1).

(The House adjourned at 7:42 p.m.)

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