

S. O. 31

With the season only three weeks away I urge the minister to act immediately.

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[*Translation*]

ANTI-TAX MOVEMENTS

Mr. Guy Saint-Julien (Abitibi): Mr. Speaker, anti-tax movements are springing up all over Quebec, and I think we should remind them that what is happening today is the result of yesterday's negligence on the part of those who governed the country at the time. There is also the economic recession which turned out to be more serious than we thought, but we all know the economy goes through certain cycles. Whether we like it or not, we will have to pay our bills, because federal, provincial and municipal politicians cannot forgive debts once they have been incurred. We will have to be more reasonable in our demands for goods and services.

Pressure and protests from anti-tax movements are powerless against past overspending and the resulting debt. However, they can give politicians who are so anxious to give people what they want cause to reflect, advocate more responsible fiscal management and prevent them from making the situation even worse than it is now.

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[*English*]

CHILD POVERTY

Mrs. Christine Stewart (Northumberland): Mr. Speaker, according to the Vanier Institute of the Family one million Canadian children live below the poverty line. Child poverty is essentially family poverty.

The challenge is to respond appropriately to one very basic fact, poor children are the sons and daughters of poor parents.

The Canadian government must recognize the vast resources held in the outstretched hands and minds of our children and acknowledge the poverty of children and their families both in this country and around the world.

All children of all nations must be given the opportunity to develop to their full potential. Children are our nation's and the world's nations most important resource.

Governments of the developing world are devoting half of their expenditures to debt servicing and military spending. This unproductivity must end.

The Government of Canada must move toward a reallocation of resources for the development of our children and our future. Canada must link its Third World aid policies to the advancement of human rights and in recognition of the untapped resources held in the minds of their children, provide direct poverty alleviation in our aid program.

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OZONE DEPLETION

Ms. Lynn Hunter (Saanich—Gulf Islands): Mr. Speaker, mounting medical evidence confirms that ozone depletion is a threat to the continuation of life on earth. Yet the call to action on ozone depletion made by the environment committee in our report nearly two years ago received little attention. Belatedly the alarm bells are now ringing.

Canada's location in the northern hemisphere means we experience disproportionate effects of ozone depletion. The incidence of skin cancer, immune disorders and eye damage are rising at unprecedented rates.

We are not powerless against these threats. We will all have to learn to protect ourselves from ultraviolet radiation. This protection is particularly urgent for our children.

Government must bring in stiff, mandatory and uniform regulations against ozone depleting chemicals. We must also give urgent priority for technology to recapture, recycle and ultimately destroy these chemicals. In addition, we should have mandatory standards for sunscreens and protective sunglasses.

Finally, we must highlight the urgency of this issue at the upcoming earth summit in Brazil and at the renegotiations of the Montreal protocol.