

## HOUSE OF COMMONS

Wednesday, November 27, 1991

The House met at 2 p.m.

---

*Prayers*

---

### STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S. O. 31

[*English*]

#### WELFARE

**Mr. Stan Keyes (Hamilton West):** Mr. Speaker, in my home town of Hamilton, Ontario, the unemployment rate in October stood at 10.3 per cent. That is up dramatically from 6.8 per cent recorded in October of last year.

The welfare caseload in the regional municipality of Hamilton—Wentworth is swelling. There has been a steady growth in those families and individuals who must rely on welfare since as far back as 1989. The welfare caseload is up by 56 per cent from last year. There are presently 14,000 people on welfare in the region.

The government's economic mismanagement has created an overlap problem involving regional welfare payments and UI benefits. Waiting an average of eight weeks for their unemployment cheque, applicants are eligible to collect welfare, and when they get their retroactive UI benefits they are supposed to repay the welfare. Alas, few do, and that is costing the region more than \$2 million a year. The region wants the moneys owed for welfare deducted at the source from the UI cheque—a reasonable request to make the system fair.

\* \* \*

#### PARLIAMENT HILL

**Mr. Peter L. McCreath (South Shore):** Mr. Speaker, I see once again that fake Christmas trees are adorning the halls of Parliament. What a shame. What a disgrace. What a terrible environmental example. So much for the

greening of the Hill. Real Christmas trees are environmentally friendly, they are beautiful, they are a renewable resource, they are Canadian, they even smell nice.

I think it is time Parliament set the example, threw out the fake Christmas trees and replaced them with beautiful and real Christmas trees.

Mr. Speaker, if Parliament does not have the sense to do so, I would at least urge all Canadians who celebrate Christmas to have the good sense and the patriotism to treat themselves by supporting a valuable Canadian resource industry by having a real Canadian Christmas tree this year. In case you did not know, the best Christmas trees come from the Christmas tree capital of Canada, the South Shore of Nova Scotia.

\* \* \*

#### COMMEMORATIVE MARKERS

**Ms. Catherine Callbeck (Malpeque):** Mr. Speaker, in September I tabled a private member's motion calling on the federal government to honour the contribution made to Canada by our late former Prime Ministers by placing a commemorative marker near their burial sites.

As we grapple with our national unity and identity as Canadians, one obvious problem that I have observed is that many Canadians do not have an appreciation of our history. We often lack an appreciation for the great benefits that living in Canada has brought to us.

It is my hope that by commemorating the efforts of those who have dedicated their lives to building our nation, Canadians may better recognize our generation's obligation to continue to build and preserve a united Canada. By appreciating the accomplishments of the past, it helps us to better prepare ourselves for the future.

I thank the many members from all sides of the House who have indicated to me their personal support for this initiative and I ask the government, whether or not my motion is selected—

**Mr. Speaker:** The member's time has expired.