

S. O. 31

EMPLOYMENT

CUTS IN TRAINING COURSES

Mr. Howard McCurdy (Windsor—Lake St. Clair): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday, the Minister of Employment and Immigration (Mrs. McDougall)—absent her fashion cigar—admonished the Member for Nickle Belt (Mr. Rodriguez), to stop complaining and to help his community take advantage of the Canadian Jobs Strategy, so that his people can get into higher paying jobs where they will be better off. How hypocritical, and how completely asinine are the policies of this Government. As the Minister spoke, the Government was cutting 13 training courses at St. Clair College in Windsor. All were heavily subscribed, half had 100 per cent placement. One hundred people destined for those higher paying jobs promised by the Minister will have their hopes dashed. Thus this Government, which claims the flag of competitiveness and a better trained and educated workforce, shows that it is nothing but rhetoric, and strikes another blow at a community college system already critically bled by Tory leeches.

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[Translation]

MEECH LAKE AGREEMENT

ABSOLUTE REGOGNITION OF QUEBEC'S STATUS AS A
DISTINCT SOCIETY

Mrs. Nicole Roy—Arcelin (Ahuntsic): Mr. Speaker, although eight out of ten provinces have already approved the Meech Lake Accord, there are prophets of doom in the House and in the country who are again raising the spectre of disunity. Blinded by irrational and illogical thinking, they are unable to recognize Quebec's cultural and linguistic uniqueness which make it a distinct society. It is nevertheless the crowning glory that gives Canada its beauty.

Mr. Speaker, in the 1981 (*sic*) referendum, Quebec said yes to Canada and its continued membership in this voluntary democratic union can only be based on the absolute recognition of its distinct character by its Canadian partner.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my constituents in Ahuntsic, I say to all those who want to turn back the clock: Canada will be even greater by accepting Quebec as a distinct society.

• (1410)

[English]

TAX REFORM

IMPACT ON SENIOR CITIZENS

Mrs. Beryl Gaffney (Nepean): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a matter that the Government may choose to forget but one that all Canadians are being reminded of. I am referring to tax reform and the many surprises Canadians, particularly seniors, find in store for them as they fill out their 1988 tax returns.

An area of major concern is the handling of medical expenses, and the impact of converting from tax deductions to the 17 per cent tax credit.

For an individual with high medical expenses, such as a senior citizen requiring substantial care, the additional tax payable caused by this measure is in the thousands of dollars. In Ontario, an individual with \$30,000 in medical expenses would pay an additional \$5,400.

Why did the Government use a 17 per cent tax credit for medical expenses rather than the 29 per cent used for charitable donations? Why is it socking it to seniors once again?

I call on the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson) to rectify this dreadful situation.

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FOOD

RED MEAT—ALLEGED MISINFORMATION ISSUED BY CBC

Mr. A. H. Harry Brightwell (Perth—Wellington—WATERLOO): Mr. Speaker, last Friday morning I awoke to an unbelievable newscast from the CBC. It said that every year two million Canadians become sick and hundreds die from eating red meat.

The numbers came from a study of illnesses from food poisoning, and had been adjusted by a factor of 350 because of the assumption that many such cases are not recognized as food poisoning and are not reported.

As a veterinarian, my knowledge of the quality of red meat produced in Canada made me realize immediately that the newscast was in error. But would the average consumer know this? No. He or she would not. The consumer should know that the red meat produced in Canada is of excellent quality, but the improper handling of meat or any food product can lead to bacterial build up and food poisoning.