

## HOUSE OF COMMONS

Friday, April 28, 1989

The House met at 11 a.m.

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*Prayers*

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### STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S.O. 31

[*Translation*]

#### MUNICIPALITIES

##### PUBLIC SERVICE—EXTENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES

**Mr. Charles DeBlois (Montmorency—Orléans):** Mr. Speaker, on April 20, the Supreme Court of Canada sentenced the City of Beauport, and more particularly the taxpayers of Vieux-Beauport, to pay \$6.6 million to the owners of La Bastogne Restaurant and the Laurentides Motel, which burned in 1972.

This verdict from the highest court in the land affects nearly 10,000 taxpayers in my constituency, who will each have to pay from \$400 to \$1,200.

As Mayor Jacques Langlois said, this decision shows how urgent it is for the Government of Québec to determine more clearly and precisely what responsibilities municipalities have in performing the public services they owe the people.

In this regard, I call upon the Government of Québec, which is responsible for the municipalities, to get involved quickly, to cover part of the costs and, in the longer term, to legislate so that other municipalities will not have to go through such serious situations that weigh so heavily on their taxpayers.

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[*English*]

#### EXTERNAL AID

##### REDUCTION IN FOREIGN ASSISTANCE

**Ms. Lynn Hunter (Saanich—Gulf Islands):** Mr. Speaker, cuts to Canada's international development assistance is another broken promise to the Canadian people. These cuts tarnish our international reputation. This

Budget represents the third time in five years that Canada has shirked its international commitment to have ODA reach 7 per cent of the GNP. Before this most recent slash, Canada was surpassed by all the Nordic countries in percentage of aid to the GNP. Former UN ambassador, Stephen Lewis, said last night:

Canada has abandoned the Third World in its darkest hour.

Last year Canada achieved a seat on the UN Security Council largely as a result of support from the developing world. This Government has repaid the respect of less developed nations by drastically reducing Canada's foreign assistance, forcing debtor countries into the hands of the IMF with its Draconian economic programs. This is a withering away of a national characteristic of caring. Canada is not seen to be acting out of self-interest in the international community. Foreign aid is not a frill. It is Canada's contribution to the promotion of international stability in an interdependent world.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear.

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[*Translation*]

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### PARLIAMENTARY TRADITION

**Mr. Jean-Marc Robitaille (Terrebonne):** Mr. Speaker, all day yesterday in the House, we saw the Opposition Parties defending tradition, thus leading people to believe that Parliamentary tradition comes before the interests of the Canadian people. What a farce, Mr. Speaker!

Nevertheless, Mr. Speaker, those people did not hesitate to want to take away their opportunity to speak yesterday. That is the Liberal tradition! That is the New Democratic tradition! But much more than that, Mr. Speaker, following the Chair's decision to maintain unanimous consent for the budget speech and tabling of the Budget by the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson), they left the House, not accepting the consequences of the Chair's decision.

They thus failed their first duty, to represent their constituents in this House. That is the Liberal tradition! That is the New Democratic tradition!