

S. O. 31

Earlier reports have resulted in groundfish advisories and native elders have been found with poisoned tissues. The major report studying the state of dioxin contamination of the river from the upper watershed near Prince George down to the estuary is six months late and may not be released until 1992.

The health of the Fraser River is too important to delay. We have to clean up the river now.

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[Translation]

COUP IN HAITI

Mr. Jean-Marc Robitaille (Terrebonne): Mr. Speaker, just a few months ago, a legitimate government was put in place in Haiti following clean and democratic elections. The coup mounted by General Cedras which forced president Aristide into exile yesterday, is but a savage encroachment on the basic rights of the Haitian people. This coup, Mr. Speaker, must be condemned vigorously. The international community, led by Canada, must spare no effort to restore the democratic government duly elected by the people of Haiti.

Mr. Speaker, all of us in this House are duty bound to support any move or action to enable the Haitian people to get back their president, their democratic system and the freedom they are entitled to.

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[English]

SOCIAL PROGRAMS

Mr. Lawrence MacAulay (Cardigan): Mr. Speaker, since this government came to power seven years ago it has cut almost every program imaginable. It has cut UI and it has cut old age pensions with the clawback, but the worst cuts of all have come in the area of medicare.

The federal government is abandoning its commitment to medicare by shifting billions and billions of dollars in taxes on to the provinces. Smaller provinces like Prince Edward Island simply do not have the population to support the increases in taxation.

The government is forcing the provinces to choose between high taxation or reductions in medical services. The country can no longer tolerate the cuts in medicare.

Last week the Prime Minister said that the opponents to national unity would have criticized the Lord's Prayer. I would suggest that if the Lord's Prayer were health care this government would have cut it in half already.

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WORLD SUMMIT FOR CHILDREN

Mrs. Edna Anderson (Simcoe Centre): Mr. Speaker, a year ago at the World Summit for Children world leaders met and pledged to help children around the globe.

On this first anniversary I would like to invite you to participate in the *Keeping the Promise Campaign* from September 27 to October 4. The campaign is serving to ensure that the promises made during the summit are kept. Although some progress has been made there is still a long way to go.

Every day 40,000 children die from malnutrition and disease around the world. Many schools and places of worship around the globe have planned events for this campaign from September 27. Events will be taking place in Ottawa to commemorate the week.

I urge everyone to join in the effort to create a better world for future generations.

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[Translation]

TRIBUTE TO LOUIS LABERGE

Mr. Phillip Edmonston (Chambly): Mr. Speaker, today is a special day for the Quebec labour movement, a break, a time-out to give everyone a chance to pay tribute to one of the greats of trade unionism in Quebec, in Canada and even in America, as far as I am concerned. I am referring to Louis Laberge.

Mr. Laberge has been a guiding light for all those concerned with the greater welfare of the workers. His contribution to the shaping of the Quebec society has been unquestionably gigantic. I did not always agree with what my friend Louis said, especially during the 1970s, when he had his mind set on bringing down the system. I am sure that all the members of this House will want to join me in thanking Mr. Laberge for his unswerving commitment to the cause of organized labour and wish him all the best in his new career which can only match the stature of the man.