

S. O. 31

because we do not exercise our responsibility in any kind of sensible or acceptable manner.

I have to say, as one who has sat here in opposition through half of the 1960s and virtually almost all of the 1970s, that is what we witnessed. We had to try to recover from that terrible legacy of financial and fiscal neglect.

The Minister of Finance said at page 13 of the budget, and I quote:

I have stated on many occasions that it would be irresponsible of our generation if we took the easy option of simply passing our deficit burden to our children. It would also be irresponsible to leave them a legacy of environmental neglect.

These are the two issues which concern me mightily about this budget and this debate, whether it is one of fiscal neglect or environmental neglect, I believe the basis of this budget is a firm foundation for the future for ourselves, for our children and for our grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker: It being two o'clock p.m., the House will now proceed to Statements by Members under Standing Order 31.

STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S. O. 31

[English]

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Mrs. Edna Anderson (Simcoe Centre): Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to join with Canadian women and men on International Women's Day to celebrate the many achievements and contributions of women to our society.

Over the years, women's struggle for their rights as workers, mothers and citizens have helped bring about landmark political and social reforms.

Since our government's mandate began, our partnership with women and women's groups has resulted in many social reforms. Senior women have seen a substantial improvement in their standard of living and quality of life. They have benefited from pension reforms designed to ensure women's fair and equitable treatment in their later years.

Policies initiated by our government have also helped to provide women with opportunities to more actively participate in the economic life of the country and to contribute to its economic prosperity.

I applaud the efforts of Canadian women in bringing these and other issues of concern to the forefront. I believe that such efforts will continue to enhance the status of women and strengthen their important role in Canadian society.

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HUMAN RIGHTS

Mr. Bill Blaikie (Winnipeg Transcona): Mr. Speaker, tomorrow the present session of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights draws to a close, and it appears that it will once again pass without producing a resolution on the Indonesian occupation of East Timor.

Despite repeated endorsement by the UN of the right of self-determination and in glaring contrast to the United Nations General Assembly declaration for the 1990s to be the UN Decade for International Law, the Canadian government refuses to condemn Indonesia's actions and show leadership in support of the rights of the East Timorese people, turning a blind eye to massive human rights abuses—abuses which have included a forced sterilization program against East Timorese women.

Tomorrow also marks the thirtieth anniversary of the Chinese occupation of Tibet. As a new spirit of independence and self-determination sweeps the world, for example as it has in Southern Africa and the Baltic states, it is shameful that the Chinese occupation of Tibet continues without significant international attention being paid, as is likewise the case with East Timor.

In both cases, Canadian silence should end, and Canadian respect for international law should be revived.

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FORESTRY

Mr. Robert D. Nault (Kenora—Rainy River): Mr. Speaker, the future of this country depends on our ability to implement sustainable development policies which will protect our resources in years to come. To date, we have seen no commitment from this government, and