

• (1400)

Certainly in the larger cities, what happens is that it is the taxpayers of the municipalities who must pick up the added rate for the added people who are on social assistance.

Unfortunately, I am not going to have time to go into some of the things that have bothered me about Bill C-32 because of Question Period rapidly approaching, but I just want to point out—I will go into it in my next few minutes—that it is the children who are being hurt by this. We know that they are the single largest group of people getting social assistance.

For a government that has committed itself to assisting child poverty and doing away with it by the year 2000, I think it puts a bad light on this government in looking at child poverty when it thumbs its nose at those in Alberta, those in British Columbia and those in Ontario which have 50 per cent of the population of children who are presently living in poverty.

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

STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S.O. 31

[Translation]

ARMENIA

Mr. Svend J. Robinson (Burnaby—Kingsway): Mr. Speaker, last Saturday, over 99 per cent of the voters in Armenia were in favour of independence, and there was a 95 per cent turnout. Yesterday, all the members of the Armenian Parliament sang their national anthem "Armenia free and independent". Mr. Speaker, today, all the members of this House must join me in congratulating the men and women of Armenia on their independence.

An historical agreement was reached yesterday, Mr. Speaker, when Armenian and Azerbaijani authorities agreed on an immediate cease-fire and the disarming of armed units in Nagorny Karabakh. So, Mr. Speaker, all

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the refugees can finally go back home. We would like to offer our congratulations to the presidents of Russia and Kazakhstan, Boris Yeltsin and Noursoultan Nazarbaïev. This is the dawn of a beautiful day in Armenia for the people of Nagorny Karabakh. Hurrah for independence, Mr. Speaker!

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[English]

NOVA SCOTIA CLAM COMPANY

Mr. Francis G. LeBlanc (Cape Breton Highlands—Canso): Mr. Speaker, the people of my constituency, like other Canadians, want to participate in renewing the Constitution, but their immediate concern is economic, a secure job so they can feed their families.

Since May, 250 unemployed workers of the Nova Scotia Clam Company have been waiting for clear leadership from this government to enable them to go back to work. All summer long, despite rally after rally, they have been kept in the dark.

Before the last election, this government created special rules to encourage this company to establish in the Strait of Canso. Since then, as in so many other cases in Atlantic Canada, the federal government has acted to undermine this company and abandon its workers.

In August, the Minister of Fisheries and ACOA threatened the viability of Nova Scotia Clam by permitting the new competitor, National Sea, to enter its market for off-shore clams.

Now, the company's clam vessel *The Scotia Surf* is being sold. Will the Minister of Fisheries and ACOA, with nearly \$1 million invested in this project, object to this sale? Will he act in the dying hours to save these jobs? I await his answer, Mr. Speaker.

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UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

Mrs. Louise Feltham (Wild Rose): Mr. Speaker, from the cradle to the grave is synonymous with a lifetime.

From the cradle to the grave is also synonymous with unemployment insurance for many.