

S. O. 21

People in Montreal and in Ottawa threw the Liberals out over the issues of favouritism and patronage in 1984, and I do not think they want the Conservative Government doing the same thing in 1988.

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POLITICAL PARTIESCHILD CARE AND UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE—POLICY OF
NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY

Mr. Léo Duguay (St. Boniface): Mr. Speaker, yesterday the Leader of the NDP (Mr. Broadbent) outlined his policy on child care and criticized ours as “scatter-gun”, “spending money in all kinds of ways”, and said “it’s all quite irrelevant”. He promised to save Canadians \$4.1 billion, and to change maternity benefits from 15 weeks to 28 weeks. However, he could not elaborate on either the savings or the costs of these changes. The Hon. Member for Vancouver East (Ms. Mitchell) quickly added that the maternity benefit changes would cost the Government nothing since they would be paid for by the employees and employers.

As the parliamentary task force of which she and I were members concluded, her “nothing” happens to be \$1.8 billion over the next five years. His “irrelevant” includes \$2.3 billion of tax savings for Canadians.

That is the NDP for you, Mr. Speaker. A \$1.8 billion expenditure is nothing and a \$2.3 billion tax saving is irrelevant. That is how NDP Members are going to help ordinary Canadians. They will label all expenditures irrelevant and all savings nothing. With them in control, as Manitobans well know, ordinary Canadians quickly become less than ordinary and a lot poorer.

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CANADIAN ARMED FORCES

TRIBUTE TO MID-EAST PEACEKEEPING CONTINGENT

Mr. Len Hopkins (Renfrew—Nipissing—Pembroke): Mr. Speaker, hats off to the personnel in the Canadian Armed Forces who have worked so hard to put the United Nations Iraq-Iran military observer group together over a period of just a few days. Our professionals in the military community have once again proven that they can put a team together in short order, and they will once again display Canadian good-will and effectiveness at peacekeeping to the world at large.

The 495-person UN peacekeeping contingent was put together at Canadian Forces Base Petawawa and includes

about 350 from that base, about 50 from Calgary, approximately 20 from CFB Kingston, and about 40 from reserve units across Canada.

Canadian peacekeeping had its beginning under the wise guidance and initiative of the Right Hon. Lester B. Pearson, Canada’s Foreign Affairs Minister when the Right Hon. Louis St. Laurent was Prime Minister of Canada. Our Canadian service people will once again display their diplomacy, their professional soldier qualities and their ability to handle political problems and difficult challenges.

Canada and the world will be well served by the Canadian Armed Forces as they proceed to take over their observer and communications UN peacekeeping duties in Iraq and Iran, and this Parliament of Canada wishes them well as we express our appreciation to them.

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POLITICAL PARTIES

LIBERAL PARTY—RESERVED QUEBEC RIDING NOMINATIONS

Mr. John Oostrom (Willowdale): Mr. Speaker, the Liberal Party of Canada claims to be open to all who wish to join and participate. However, it is evident that this is a shallow and hollow claim. Let us examine the present situation in Quebec.

In that province a small clique determines who may and who may not seek a nomination. Ridings are reserved for different ethnic groups and candidates. Presently, Dr. Déry, who has signed up 1,400 members, is being denied the opportunity to seek the nomination in the riding of St. Laurent because it has been reserved for an as yet unknown parachute candidate.

The Leader of the Liberal Party (Mr. Turner) continually states that the Party is open to grassroots participation. However, the present situation in that province contradicts him. It is very apparent that democracy is only empty rhetoric to the Liberal Party and the reality is that only chosen friends need apply.

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● (1415)

TRADECANADA-UNITED STATES FREE TRADE AGREEMENT—NIAGARA
GRAPE GROWERS

Ms. Sheila Copps (Hamilton East): Mr. Speaker, at least in the Liberal Party there are people who want to run for nominations in Toronto.