

# HOUSE OF COMMONS

Friday, February 20, 1987

The House met at 11 a.m.

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*Prayers*

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• (1105)

## STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S. O. 21

[English]

### ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

#### ACID RAIN—FORTHCOMING MEETING BETWEEN PRIME MINISTER AND UNITED STATES PRESIDENT

**Hon. Chas. L. Caccia (Davenport):** Mr. Speaker, it seems to us on this side of the House that it is time for the Government to come to its senses, to stop beating around the bush and to explain where it is going on acid rain with the United States.

The Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) should be gracious enough to recognize that the envoys' report is not working in Canada's favour as he had originally hoped. Having done that, the Prime Minister should tell President Reagan when he comes to Ottawa on April 5 that Canada wants to see a substantial cut in American air pollution crossing over the border into Canada. At the very least the Prime Minister should try to secure from the President a commitment not to oppose the acid rain control legislation currently before Congress.

Emission reductions, not further research, are the message the Government of Canada should give to the United States. The first public opportunity to do so will emerge right here in Ottawa on April 5 when the Prime Minister and President Reagan will meet.

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### THE BUDGET

#### MEASURE TO STIMULATE PRODUCTION IN STEEL INDUSTRY

**Mr. Felix Holtmann (Selkirk—Interlake):** Mr. Speaker, the Budget is great news to steel producers and steelworkers all across Canada. The withdrawal of the general preferential tariff on most specialty and carbon steel mill products will give our steel industry a much needed boost and will stimulate

greater production levels and more jobs throughout the country.

The people in my constituency of Selkirk—Interlake are extremely pleased with this Budget. The Town of Selkirk is the steel capital of Manitoba. The people of Selkirk are pleased that the Government has seen fit to strengthen the steel industry further and that, as a result of the Budget, job security in Manitoba's steel industry is also strengthened. The Budget is good for Selkirk, it is good for Manitoba, and it is good for all of Canada.

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### THE BUDGET

#### EFFECT ON AVERAGE FAMILIES

**Mr. John Parry (Kenora—Rainy River):** Mr. Speaker, yesterday the Government tabled its third Budget in the House of Commons. It is a Budget which has done nothing to improve fairness for average families, families who have been looking to the Government to provide honest and straightforward leadership.

Not only has the Budget failed to introduce tax reform to ease the burden of average families but it has actually raised their taxes for the third straight year. For the residents of northwestern Ontario, this Budget has not allocated one penny to relieve the region's official 9.7 unemployment rate, a figure that we know is fudged because it fails to include residents of Indian reserves. In fact the Conservatives have chosen to ignore even those regions less fortunate than my own.

The only exception to this has been the Government's constant desire to raise the price of gasoline. Once again it has hosed northern consumers at the pumps. It is about time the Government realized that northerners already face the highest gasoline prices in Canada and they must rely upon their trucks and cars to travel the vast distances between and sometimes within communities.

Next year or shortly after, the Canadian public will pass judgment on this and on previous Budgets. No more will there be Conservatives to put the boots to average taxpayers or the unemployed people of northern Canada.