

*S. O. 31*

minister who does not appear to be biased against native Canadians.

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### PROVINCE OF ONTARIO

**Mr. Ross Stevenson (Durham):** Mr. Speaker, it is almost laughable listening to the criticism directed at this week's federal budget by the Ontario treasurer and province's premier.

At the beginning of the week these same two people were announcing an unanticipated \$952 million windfall from extra income tax revenues this year. Furthermore, during the current fiscal year Ontario's new payroll health tax and commercial concentration levy, which cut in on January 1, will bring the province another \$560 million. Added together these new revenues will bring in more than three times the amount Ontario loses from cuts to the federal transfer payments for established program financing.

Before complaining further, Ontario's premier and treasurer might consider that since 1984 the federal government spending has been held to an average of 3.6 per cent while Ontario's spending has been racing ahead at an annual rate of almost 10 per cent. If the Ontario government is able to show meaningful restraint in its own spending there should be no need for any tax increase in the province because of this week's federal budget.

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### TELESAT CANADA

**Mrs. Sheila Finestone (Mount Royal):** Mr. Speaker, renewed talks by this government of privatizing Telesat Canada shows it is trapped in a market force ideological view. The government has failed to learn that our communication system works because it has been carefully crafted over many decades. It all fits together. You cannot remove one element, one wall from the house, without considering the whole system. Conservatives obviously have no vision for Canada except how to dismantle it. We have not seen the promised national telecommunication policy from this government in five years. Yet in this vacuum they want to turn Telesat, a cornerstone of our communication system, over to pure-profit motives from its public policy mandate.

What about Telesat objectives? Are they just forgotten or traded for bottom-line profits? How could private managers justify serving small native communities? How could they resist the economic attraction of serving a U.S. market of 200 million instead? Will the government ever understand Telesat's real public policy role in research and development, like satellites and HDTV? And with risky investment under way privatizing Telesat now would be a fire sale throwaway of millions of Canadian dollars that are already invested.

There is absolutely no evidence the government has considered any of these questions. For a change it would help Canadians if government were to do a little bit more thinking and planning instead of just selling and cutting.

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### THE HON. HENRY HICKS

**Mr. Howard Crosby (Halifax West):** Mr. Speaker, on March 5, 1990, the Hon. Henry Hicks will reach his seventy-fifth birthday and retire from the Senate of Canada. I am sure Members of Parliament from Nova Scotia and all members of the House will join me in wishing him and his new bride God speed.

Henry Hicks was an educator and a lawyer in a small town in Nova Scotia who, by his own words, "degenerated into a politician". But as a politician he made his mark as Minister of Education and Premier of Nova Scotia and then went on to be a president of one of our great institutes of learning, Dalhousie University.

He continued to contribute to the public welfare with a great career in the Senate, and I know he will continue to do that in the years to come.

Let us all wish Henry Wicks Godspeed.

**Some hon. members:** Hear, hear!

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### THE BUDGET

**Mr. Chris Axworthy (Saskatoon—Clark's Crossing):** Mr. Speaker, the federal budget contained nothing for Atlantic Canadians. There was no mention of any assistance package for those thousands of people hit by plant closures. There was nothing for the communities which are faced with extinction. There was nothing for the