

*S. O. 31*

The federal government has shown it is firmly resolved to remove the barriers facing the disabled in various key areas and thus ensure equal participation by all Canadians in our society.

There is also a proposal for establishing a committee of deputy ministers with a mandate to improve co-ordination of federal activities designed for people with a disability. Departments and federally regulated agencies will thus be able to continue the excellent work they have done so far.

Personally, I feel that this legislative review is an important step in our joint effort to promote equality in every respect for Canadians with a disability.

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**THE LATE FATHER GÉRARD DION**

**Mr. Mark Assad (Gatineau—La Lièvre):** Mr. Speaker, a prominent figure died this week, Father Gérard Dion, a former professor at Laval University in Quebec City. I would like to pay tribute to Father Dion who instigated a review of electoral behaviour and electoral policies in Quebec during the 1950s. At the time he heralded the changes of the Quiet Revolution which started in 1960.

Father Dion was a hard worker, endowed with unusual frankness and courage. His death is a great loss to Quebec society, and the social or political role played by Father Dion proved decisive for Quebec.

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[English]

**EDUCATION**

**Mr. Ken James (Sarnia—Lambton):** Mr. Speaker, in his speech before Parliament on November 1, 1990, our Prime Minister reaffirmed our government's commitment to educational reform. He called for a new approach to education which respects all Canadians' fundamental rights and sets national standards which will allow our children to keep up with their counterparts abroad.

Education is recognized as a vital contributor to personal, societal and national development. We need a system that works and one attuned to the future demands of the country and the economy. Canadians need a system whose results are beyond question. Our children must be put on equal footing and they must have at the minimum basic literacy and numeracy skills.

All members should join me in applauding the fact that, through the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children, our government is committed to a reduction of illiteracy and the provision of educational opportunities for our children which prepares them for productive employment and life-long learning opportunities.

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**SOCIALIST AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE**

**Mr. Jim Karygiannis (Scarborough—Agincourt):** Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to the attention of Canadians the first of many socialist awards of excellence. The nominees are: number one, the member for Esquimalt—Juan de Fuca whose self-righteous indignation on the plight of the underprivileged seems to pale in light of his personal abuse of poor printers; number two, the member for Trinity—Spadina—

**Mr. Speaker:** I have to remind hon. members that the Order under which we are making statements is very specific. It is not to be used in an attack on an hon. member. I am sure the hon. member would not want to abuse the rule.

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**TRANSPORT**

**Mr. Lyle Kristiansen (Kootenay West—Revelstoke):** Mr. Speaker, yesterday the Minister of Transport tabled his response to the transport committee report on a substance abuse strategy for the Canadian transport industry.

His policy is wrong and it is not "Made in Canada".

We had hoped that the government, which recently rediscovered a little backbone in its rejection of American attempts to impose U.S. trade laws on Canada, would have found enough courage to tell the United States that Canada will not submit to their "or else" demand that we impose American drug testing laws on Canadians.

A U.S. perception of a risk to American safety when most concerned Canadians, including the minister and the transport committee, have stated repeatedly that "no significant risk" exists in Canada is not an acceptable reason to violate the basic rights and privacy of a quarter million Canadians.