

# HOUSE OF COMMONS

Wednesday, November 2, 1983

The House met at 2 p.m.

● (1405)

## STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER 21

[English]

### MEDICAL CARE

#### TRIBUTE TO PERSONNEL INVOLVED IN SAVING LIFE OF OTTAWA YOUTH

**Hon. Jake Epp (Provencher):** Mr. Speaker, it is with mixed emotions of sadness, pride, and concern that I address Members of the House today. Sadness stems from the most unfortunate accident involving Steven Gerald Bednas, an Ottawa youth whose legs had to be amputated as a result of a tragic accident last Friday when he was caught in a box shredder. The pride, stems from the effort by doctors, ambulance attendants, firefighters and policemen, whose joint efficient efforts saved the life of this young man.

With such a gallant team effort one is reluctant to impart special recognition to a select few individuals. Unfortunately, the names of all those involved are not yet available. Nevertheless, the heroic humanitarianism and professionalism displayed by Drs. Barry Armstrong and Charles Buckley, of the Canadian Armed Forces, and by Dr. Justin Maloney of the Ottawa General Hospital, deserve recognition for their efforts in saving Steven Bednas' life. Also deserving a great deal of credit is Dr. Armstrong's wife who, upon witnessing the accident, ran to inform her husband and called Dr. Buckley to assist him. What is especially remarkable about the contribution by these doctors is that they were not on duty at the time. They were preparing for a special function that evening. Yet they committed themselves to saving that young man's life without concern for time or legalities.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I rise with concern, because evidently some equipment necessary to deal with the crisis was not on hand. Some of the equipment needed had to be brought in from the Ottawa General because it is not carried by ambulances. Dr. Armstrong indicated that if a paramedical system had been in existence the equipment would have been available from the start. Equipment and special training are essential. The example of the need for both in this case was revealed in the training that Dr. Armstrong received at the National Defence Medical Centre, known as the Advanced Trauma Life Saving System.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order, please. I regret to interrupt the Hon. Member, but his allotted time has expired.

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[Translation]

### INDUSTRY

#### RECOMMENDATION TO CANCEL LIQUOR EXCISE TAX PENDING TASK FORCE REPORT

**Mr. Louis Duclos (Montmorency-Orléans):** Mr. Speaker, the situation today is very difficult for Canadian distilleries and their employees. The industry is operating at 40 per cent of its production capacity, and the number of jobs has reached its lowest level since 1965. In my own riding, several dozen workers have been laid off in recent months. In the circumstances, the 13.3 per cent increase in the excise tax on liquor which has been in effect since September 1 of this year has increased the hardship for the industry and its employees.

I know this automatic increase merely maintains the ratio between federal excise taxes and the final sale price. I am also aware that the federal Government receives only 31 per cent of the revenue collected by all governments on sales of alcoholic beverages, while 10 years ago, its share was 40 per cent. Nevertheless, Mr. Speaker, in view of the extent of the problems with which the Canadian distillery industry is faced, I suggest the excise tax increase should be cancelled, pending recommendations by the task force responsible for looking into this matter, which was announced last summer by the Minister of Finance (Mr. Lalonde).

Finally, I would like to remind the Government that substantial increases in the tax on liquor may bring about an equally substantial drop in sales, thus reducing the total amount of tax revenue.

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[English]

### STATUS OF WOMEN

#### BATTLE FOR EQUALITY

**Mr. Lee Clark (Brandon-Souris):** Mr. Speaker, this is an especially opportune week for all of us to recognize the progress Canadian women have made toward full equality. But it is also important at this time to recognize that there are victories still to come.

Yesterday a Manitoba lawyer named Isabel Ross Hunt was presented by the Governor General with the Persons Award.