

S. O. 21

[Translation]

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): Order. It being 2 o'clock and pursuant to our Standing Orders, the House must proceed to other business. The remaining eleven minutes of extended time due to the Minister's statement will be added to Government Orders today. Consequently, the hour provided for Private Members' Business will begin at 5.11 p.m.

● (1400)

STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S. O. 21

[English]

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

POLLUTION OF ST. LAWRENCE RIVER BY TOXIC CHEMICALS

Hon. Chas. L. Caccia (Davenport): Madam Speaker, loaded with raw sewage and toxic chemicals, the St. Lawrence is a river gasping to survive. An indicator of that is the beluga whale, the numbers of which have dropped from 5,000 to 500 in the last 80 years. The milk of the mother beluga contains so many toxic chemicals that the babies are being poisoned as they nurse, zoologists inform us. The Quebec Minister of the Environment has said: "Like spoiled brats we ignored it, abused it, raped it, poured acid and human wastes into it".

Having realized the error of past practices the Quebec Government promised in November, 1986, to spend \$6 billion building over 400 sewage treatment plants in communities along the St. Lawrence River. Can Quebec cope with this problem alone? Some of the poisons dumped in the Great Lakes end up in the St. Lawrence. Ottawa has some responsibilities upstream. Therefore the federal Minister of the Environment (Mr. McMillan) would do well to help restore this magnificent and historic river by matching his words with tangible help instead of just pointing his finger at polluters.

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[Translation]

JOB PLANNING

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM—SENNETERRE
REGION—REVIVAL OF ECONOMY

Mr. Guy St. Julien (Abitibi): Since March 6 last, Mr. Speaker, the Senneterre region has been receiving federal assistance under one of the six employment programs of the Community Development Program.

The purpose of this program is to help the residents of Senneterre and neighbouring regions cope with massive layoffs resulting from the closure of the radar base and other layoffs by the CN.

A committee has been set up under the chairmanship of Senneterre municipal councillor Jean Roy.

I attended several meetings with the residents of Senneterre to give them a hand, and I want to underscore the competence of Department of Employment and Immigration Alain Darveau of Hull whose professional advice was of great help, and of Minister Benoit Bouchard who showed willingness to listen to the people.

The committee may recommend one or several options available under the program with a view to helping workers create their own company, acquire new skills, and get \$200,000 over the next two years to carry out a realistic study on local economy development and diversification future prospects.

Mr. Speaker, the Senneterre region has real potential for economic recovery.

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[English]

TAX REFORM

SKEPTICISM ABOUT RESULTS

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops—Shuswap): Mr. Speaker, Canadians have become very skeptical about the Government's intention to change Canada's tax laws because they fear tax reform will not be in their interests since the Government is the only one in the world to allow capital gains from any source to be totally tax-free. Canadians also remember their federal taxes have increased by \$1,350 per family per year as a result of taxes imposed by the present Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson).

We now hear the federal Government intends to impose a food tax on Canadian families. Yes, the Government, through the business transfer tax, a hidden sales tax, will be taxing milk, bread, eggs, vegetables, fruit, indeed all groceries. No wonder Canadians are skeptical. What kind of Government would tax the food on our kitchen table? Only a Government that cares not a whit about the people of Canada. Any Government that imposes such a punitive, regressive, and hidden tax on food will be a Government removed from office as soon as the voters have a chance.

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SPORTS

EARLY BLUE JAYS CATCH IRE OF CINCINNATI CITY COUNCIL

Mr. Reginald Stackhouse (Scarborough West): Mr. Speaker, America feels threatened. We know many Americans have faced the danger of invasion from Nicaragua for several years, but now we discover others fear their national identity is threatened because major league baseball will open outside their country for the first time in history. The first major league baseball game this year will open in Toronto, one hour