

S. O. 31

last decade or so concerning the transfer payments to the provinces which have a direct impact on their programs.

If people do not like it, so be it. Bob Rae, congratulations to you. Kick the government in the shins again. The government deserves it. It deserves to be a matter of great public controversy precisely whether the government has carried out its responsibilities. In my opinion, and I would suggest that it is now shared by every provincial government in the country, it has not. That ought to be a matter of great public debate and dialogue, and if the federal government does not like it, tough luck.

It has put the boots to Canadians in hospitals, providing medical care in a wide variety of circumstances across this country for long enough. It has put provincial governments and municipal governments and local hospitals at risk for long enough.

It should not be a mysterious debate about who has the best finance department. It ought to be a substantive debate about what one level of government, the federal level, has done to the provinces, the municipalities and their local hospitals by clearly renegeing on its own financial responsibilities.

We will continue this debate later in the afternoon, but it will not get any softer.

Madam Deputy Speaker: As we rise for lunch, I would like to tell the House that I have chosen to consult with the Speaker over this lunch period. One of us will rule after Question Period.

It being one o'clock, I do now leave the chair until two o'clock this afternoon, pursuant to Standing Order 24(2).

The House took recess at 1 p.m.

AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 2 p.m.

STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S. O. 31

[*Translation*]

FATHER ROLLAND BRUNELLE

M. Gaby Larrivée (Joliette): Mr. Speaker, today I want to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Father Rolland Brunelle.

Recently Father Brunelle was made a knight of the National Order of Quebec. He was awarded this high honour by the premier of Quebec, in recognition of his exceptional contribution to the community.

This award was well deserved. Father Brunelle has dedicated his life to teaching music and for more than 50 years has passed on his love of music to hundreds of young people, some of whom have become famous musicians.

Throughout his career Father Brunelle won the admiration and respect of the community in Joliette, which expressed its appreciation by celebrating his 50th anniversary as a teacher of music last year.

Father Brunelle's contribution and his dedication to young people and the local community are examples to us all.

On behalf of the House I wish to congratulate Father Brunelle on receiving this well deserved award.

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[*English*]

MYANMAR

Mrs. Christine Stewart (Northumberland): Mr. Speaker, it is beyond understanding that Canada still recognizes and supports the current military dictatorship in Myanmar which continues to rule by force and which has been twice rejected by Myanmar's 40 million citizens through widespread demonstrations and the ballot box.

In attempts to further delay transferring its power to the National League for Democracy, which won the 1990 general elections, the illegitimate dictatorship is waging a cruel war against Muslims and ethnic minorities, causing almost 200,000 refugees to flee to neighbouring countries. Indeed, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in Geneva issued an urgent plea for assistance, saying the situation has turned into one of the world's major refugee crises. Amnesty International has confirmed reports of widespread human rights violations, including torture, rape and killings.

I call on this government to recognize the Myanmar national coalition government as the government legally elected by the people, support UN economic sanctions and an arms embargo on Myanmar, suspend all Petro-Canada operations and to redirect all government to government and multilateral assistance to the refugees and those in legitimate need.