

*Private Members' Business*

through various programs aimed at curbing drinking and driving. We have heeded the message and donned walking shoes, skates and skis, all aimed at a more balanced and healthy life.

One what of the tremendous achievements made in the area of research and in the successful rate of transplants, surgeries and rehabilitation programs. All this points to an interest in health and an appreciation for health in all its forms.

Industrial health and safety is an important facet of our plans for a future without accidents, disabilities and surely, without fatalities.

The Centre for Occupational Health and Safety has played a major role and would like to continue its work. It was therefore with a great deal of consternation that I learned that the government had plans which would substantially affect the centre's ability to carry out its outstanding work.

The centre is being asked to survive for two years without government funding. Such budget cuts show a flagrant disregard for Canadians and are only another item we can add to the long list of cutbacks Canadians are being asked to accept by this inept government.

We are told to go and find the money somewhere else. This is more or less what the Minister of Labour told the board of governors of the centre. Without being specific the minister felt there were "many ways in which the centre could become self-financing within the next few years". However, the minister should have known that the fund raising options left to the centre are few, not many, as he indicated.

Throughout Canada there is a search for these funds for great causes. This is one of the causes. But it seems there is a proliferation of people trying to collect money, whether it be for universities or for other drives, like the Cat-Scan as is being considered in my riding. I believe the return on the moneys spent at the centre for the prevention of accidents would benefit all Canadians and save the government and, therefore, the Canadian taxpayers a great deal of money.

Fund raising is time consuming. Much-needed staff would have to be deployed to set up fund raising programs. The difficulty would be compounded by the

fact that so many cutbacks have been made to essential services.

We have reason to wonder what type of fund raising can be carried out? The Liberal Party clearly saw the funding of the centre as a responsibility of the central government, and this party still does.

When the establishment of the centre was discussed in the House in 1978 the then Minister of Labour, the Hon. John Munro, clearly explained that the centre was to be financed by the federal government. Is the government now asking the Canadian people to accept another broken promise? Is the government taking chances with the health of Canadians due to its poor management of revenues? The answer to both question is, unfortunately, yes.

I urge the government to weigh the implications of the proposed cuts to the centre against the benefits of continued financial support to an organization which brings a vital service to Canadian workers, their families and employers which in the process enhances our image abroad and enhances health here in our own country.

[Translation]

**Mr. Gilles Bernier (Beauce):** Madam Speaker, the business plan for the Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety has one basic objective: financial self-sufficiency. To achieve this goal, the plan considers the present context of occupational health and safety in Canada and suggests the following strategies:

The centre's financial strategy must stress its basic mandate which consists in promoting occupational health and safety, not pursuing related objectives. The centre's activities produce positive results within the next few years and not focus on new objectives. The centre must concentrate on a few initiatives likely to produce revenue and only proceed with new initiatives as resources permit. The centre must take advantage of its unique combination of technical expertise in occupational health and safety and information technology.

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A major component of the centre's short term strategy must be to develop existing markets for products and services. The Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety must also develop products and services connected with those aspects of its mandate that are safety-related and develop the market for these services which is apparently more lucrative than for health-related services. The centre must be considered as a truly