

DISABLED AND THE HANDICAPPED

Mr. Maurizio Bevilacqua (York North): Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my warmest and sincerest congratulations to *The Disability Network*, the winner of the first ACTRA "into the mainstream" award, in recognition of its positive portrayal of visible, audible, and disabled minorities in Canadian movies, TV and radio.

Produced by the CBC and the Toronto Centre for Independent Living, *The Disability Network* airs Saturday afternoons as a news and information magazine for the disabled and other minorities.

While we celebrate this impressive achievement, we all must be reminded that there are many barriers confronting disabled Canadians. *The Disability Network* brings to light the fact that many of the issues raised in government reports or reports made by local organizations, such as the Community Services Council of York Region's "From Gaps to Option" report, remain unanswered.

I believe that we must practise the principle of inclusion, rather than exclusion. I urge the government to take all necessary steps to bring about full economic, social, and cultural integration of disabled Canadians.

* * *

SOCIAL PROGRAMS

Mr. Ken James (Sarnia—Lambton): Mr. Speaker, recently I have made a number of statements calling for our government to continue leadership and stewardship in the restraint of government spending.

On this same theme, I recently read some interesting facts prepared by one of our deputy ministers. How many members of this House are aware that each month Supply and Services Canada sends out something like 8.5 million cheques for old age security, guaranteed income supplements, Canada Pension Plan, and family allowance?

If one assumes that the public cost of each of these cheques was 39 cents, this translates into roughly \$40 million a year. I ask then, should we as a government not consider other means through which cheques could be delivered? In this day and age of technological advances,

S. O. 31

there must be alternatives which could be more efficient, not as capital intensive, and in the end less expensive. The idea of direct-depositing is one that comes to mind.

On the surface, this appears to me as one avenue through which we could further reduce our spending and improve our over-all efficiency.

* * *

HOUSING

Mr. Joe Fontana (London East): Mr. Speaker, under this government, affordable housing has become an increasingly unobtainable goal. Forty per cent of all single parents in Canada are raising their children in unacceptable housing conditions.

With interest rates climbing to over 14 per cent, there are only 270,000 potential buyers of the average home, compared to 475,000 buyers two years ago when interest rates were only 10 per cent.

The government's response has been to ignore the housing crisis and exacerbate it by introducing the GST, cutting out RRAP, and cutting a total of \$175 million from the social housing budget.

The Liberal Task Force on Housing released its report Monday with 25 recommendations for federal action. The key to this report is federal action, leadership, and co-operation with other levels of government and housing groups.

A national vision requires national direction. It is necessary for the federal government to co-ordinate a national housing strategy now by providing much needed funding and setting new directions for housing policy.

* * *

GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

Mr. Lee Richardson (Calgary Southeast): Mr. Speaker, in meetings in my constituency this past weekend and in several weekend meetings over the past few months, a question that keeps recurring is: Will manufacturers pass on to the consumers savings that occur as a result of the removal of the 13.5 per cent manufacturers' sales tax?

I asked the same question of witnesses during finance committee hearings in every province in Canada. Here are some of the answers.