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**ABBY HOFFMAN**

**Mr. John Brewin (Victoria):** Mr. Speaker, tomorrow night in Toronto the Canadian Association for the Advancement of Women in Sport and Physical Activity (CAAWS) will give an historical award for 1992 to Abby Hoffman.

I am sure I speak for all members of the House in joining with CAAWS in acknowledging the tremendous contribution that Abby Hoffman has made to sport in Canada, to sport internationally and to women everywhere. A great athlete in her own right, an Officer of the Order of Canada, Abby served for 10 years as Director-General of Sport Canada.

It was disappointing that the minister of sport removed her from that position. In it she gave outstanding and sensitive leadership, focusing Canadian sport on the value of pursuing excellence, of supporting athletes and coaches, of equity and fair play in sport—the moral value of sport, as Bruce Kidd has called it.

Above all, throughout her life, Abby Hoffman has contributed inspiration and encouragement to countless girls and women. We wish Abby well on this happy occasion and look to her for continued leadership in the future.

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**EDUCATION**

**Mr. Scott Thorkelson (Edmonton—Strathcona):** Mr. Speaker, as the representative of thousands of students who attend the University of Alberta, I would like to commend the government for increasing the student tax deduction from \$60 to \$80 per month.

I also want to thank University of Alberta student union president, Marc Dumouchel, and vice-president Randy Boissoneault for their submission to the Edmonton caucus and to the Government of Canada. We listened. We will be eliminating the 3 per cent administration fee on student loans. These measures will help thousands of students across the country. An efficient, accessible and generous student loan program helps students achieve their goals.

A well-educated work force is crucial to the competitiveness of our country and the well-being of its population. I commend the finance minister for these moves.

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**UNEMPLOYMENT**

**Mr. Gilbert Parent (Welland—St. Catharines—Thorold):** Mr. Speaker, in the last few days we in the Niagara peninsula have been saddened by the news that 2,300 jobs will be lost because of the decision of General Motors to close down a plant in the city of St. Catharines.

We have been ravaged by that decision and savaged by the policies of this government. We in the Niagara peninsula hope that the families of the men and women who have been laid off will be getting some kind of assistance, either for retraining or for money to tide them over until they can see their way clear to getting new jobs.

We hope that this government will strongly consider putting those programs it now has in place in operation so that the workers of General Motors in St. Catharines can have a little bit more hope at this time of the year.

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[Translation]

**CO-OPERATIVE HOUSING**

**Mr. Benoît Tremblay (Rosemont):** Mr. Speaker, the decision to abolish the federal co-operative housing program is harsh and unjustifiable for low income families. After a thorough review, this program was deemed to be appropriate and effective in 1991 and the government announced that it would be permanent instead of experimental. Therefore no replacement measure has been planned by the provinces, municipalities and groups concerned, which have mobilized their members to present concrete projects.

In Montreal, families who live in co-operative housing have an average income of \$24,000 and half of them pay the going market rate. This collective form of home ownership enables poor families to live in a socially mixed environment, which is highly desirable. The efforts made by these groups further to the government's commitments must not be betrayed. The Minister of