

S.O. 21

SOW standing for Survivor of the WEEK. The envelope, please. This week's survivor is former Cabinet Minister, Pierre Juneau, who is still President of the CBC.

There are many more SOWs still out there. Perhaps their existence may prevent the pot from calling the kettle black.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

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FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL AFFAIRS

FORTHCOMING ERDA AGREEMENT WITH BRITISH COLUMBIA

Mr. Gerry St. Germain (Mission-Port Moody): Mr. Speaker, last September 4 the people of British Columbia gave this Government an overwhelming mandate. They know that our Party would give all provinces and all regions of the country an equal voice in the decision-making process.

British Columbia is represented in the House by 19 hard-working, responsible government Members, who includes three influential Cabinet Ministers.

Those who have recently attempted to adopt British Columbia as "their province", simply for political purposes, need not pretend to be speaking for B.C. The people of my province know better.

The Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Turner) and other Members opposite should quit trying to use British Columbia as a political football. The people of British Columbia have had their share of being used by the previous Liberal Government. They want to become full partners in the economic rebirth of the country, and that is what we intend to make them.

When our Government signs a new ERDA Agreement with the Province of British Columbia, as we will do shortly, British Columbians will see a new era of economic co-operation and development dawn in a land of unlimited opportunity.

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[Translation]

EMPLOYMENT

EQUALITY FOR WOMEN

Miss Aideen Nicholson (Trinity): Mr. Speaker, Canadian women have been asking for equality in the area of employment for a long time. The measures proposed by the Government in March do not satisfy them very much. But today, I would like to express my views on another aspect of the problem.

Equality on the labour market implies a series of legislative and regulatory measures. Since we consider that society shares the responsibility for children with the parents, maternity benefits are a particularly important program.

There was some talk about the Conservative Government transferring maternity benefits from the Unemployment Insurance Program to general social assistance programs. As we know, these programs are at the mercy of budget cuts at any time.

The National Action Committee on the Status of Women is opposed to such a transfer, and several thousands of women around the country want to safeguard and even to improve the maternity benefits program.

Mr. Speaker, I call upon the Government to listen to them very carefully.

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[English]

CANADIAN ARMED FORCES

ANTICIPATED PAY INCREASES

Mr. Ray Skelly (Comox-Powell River): Mr. Speaker, there have been recent reports stating that the annual pay increases for Canadian Armed Forces personnel were expected to be granted on April 1. This has not occurred.

There have been a number of excuses offered for this situation. One is the anticipated expansion of the Forces. Another is the anticipated decrease in the Armed Forces personnel by way of the forthcoming Budget. There is also the old standard excuse that it is all "tied up in Treasury Board".

Coupled with this is a directive from Winnipeg Air Command dated March 19, removing the 4 per cent limit on increases for goods and services provided to Armed Forces personnel.

A further burden has been placed on Forces' families, for they will be required to pay CMHC appraised rents beginning November 1. Families at C.F.B. Comox, where the B.C. Socred Government has removed rent controls, are facing monthly increases of \$100 to \$150. The Minister of National Defence (Mr. Nielsen) and the Conservative Government must take responsible action to provide Canadian Armed Forces personnel with affordable housing and services at fair prices.

The Minister of National Defence should rise in his place in the House and explain to the Canadian public and members of the Armed Forces why they are being targeted for such punitive action.

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STATUS OF WOMEN

ACHIEVEMENT OF EQUALITY

Mr. Andrew Witer (Parkdale-High Park): Mr. Speaker, I take this opportunity to note that the National Action Committee on the Status of Women held its annual general meeting in Ottawa this weekend.