

**The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne):** It being eleven o'clock, the House will now proceed to Statements by Members pursuant to Standing Order 31.

## STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S. O. 31

[*Translation*]

### SMALL BUSINESS

**Mr. Marcel R. Tremblay (Québec Est):** Madam Speaker, I would like to insist on the importance of capital for small businessmen, especially the daring Canadians who moved to set up a business and compete with the best. It is clear that small business people constantly view obtaining capital as one of the major challenges they must meet to start a business and make it grow. It is impossible to start a local newspaper, open a motel, even set up a micro-chip factory without financial resources. Therefore, if we want entrepreneurship to thrive in Canada—and who would wish otherwise because it is the prime mover of our economy—we must ensure that small businesses have access to sufficient funds to start up and grow.

Madam Speaker, this is indeed the goal of the Small Businesses Loans Act.

\* \* \*

[*English*]

### EXTERNAL AID

**Mrs. Christine Stewart (Northumberland):** Madam Speaker, the lack of clear policy and the ease with which this government makes and breaks commitments, not only to Canadians but to the world community, is appalling.

In the House last May the Minister for External Relations said: "As soon as next year, we will increase aid funding which will grow by \$800 million over the coming year, and that, Mr. Speaker, is a firm commitment."

Instead, in this year's budget the government is not only spending \$116 million less on foreign aid than committed by the minister, but it is putting a 5 per cent cap on increases in official development assistance, so that over the next five years the government will be spending \$558 million less on foreign aid. This is in

### S. O. 31

addition to the \$1.8 billion reduction in last year's budget.

Canada's foreign aid is a key component of our foreign policy. These continued cuts undermine Canada's credibility and weaken our voice in international affairs.

This government does not seem to grasp the changing nature of the world. In an increasingly interdependent world, world peace cannot be achieved by ignoring the needs of the Third World. Foreign aid is not charity. If the government cannot be compassionate, then it should recognize that Third World poverty has a direct negative impact on Canada's economy, environment and global security.

If the minister understands the linkage of Canada's well-being to foreign aid, why did this minister not vigorously defend the best interests of her program and department? Why do we hear from her only a weak justification for short-sighted cuts?

\* \* \*

[*Translation*]

### INCREASED PRESENCE OF WOMEN IN ENGINEERING

**Mrs. Suzanne Duplessis (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of State (Science and Technology)):** Madam Speaker, yesterday I accompanied the Minister of Science and Technology and the Member for Outremont to the polytechnic school to present engineering students with Canada Scholarships. I took this opportunity to let the public know about the private sector project supported by the Minister of Science and Technology and the Minister of Employment and Immigration, whose purpose is to increase the number of women in engineering.

This project will focus on: the supply of and demand for engineers and the importance of women for supply; the prejudices and challenges faced by women at every level of training and in the workplace; attitudes and practices of peers and institutions affecting women engineers; obstacles, in particular at the school level, blocking women's access to that profession.

This program will be headed by four organizations: the Canadian Council of Professional Engineers, the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada, the Canadian Manufacturers' Association and the Association of Consulting Engineers of Canada. Representatives of women engineers associations, engineering students, university professors, engineering faculty deans and