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**BOSNIA**

**Mr. Stan Wilbee (Delta):** Mr. Speaker, for the past several weeks, Canadians from all areas and walks of life have been outraged by the systematic rape of women in Bosnia to create as much social and racial disruption as possible.

The degradation of women has been one of the most sickening atrocities of this conflict that has had more than its share of new lows in human behaviour.

Many people from Delta have called or written demanding that the Canadian government do more to stop this type of outrage in the former Yugoslavia.

The Government of Canada would be delighted to stop this senseless conflict but there has to be some initiative on the part of the combatants themselves. Therefore I appreciate the fact that Canada is sending 1,200 more troops to the area to try and help the helpless and to use their well-honed skills in peacekeeping to restore some sanity and humanity to this sick country.

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**MUNICIPALITIES**

**Mr. Guy H. Arseneault (Restigouche—Chaleur):** Mr. Speaker, municipalities across this country are being faced with a new problem.

The government has frozen federal grants in lieu of taxes.

[Translation]

Furthermore, to avoid paying any tax increases on government property, the government has frozen the federal grants it has been paying in lieu of taxes.

Once again this Tory government is asking Canadian taxpayers to bear the brunt of its financial mismanagement. This government refuses to take the responsibility for its own mistakes and has failed to keep its promises.

[English]

The time has come for the government to stand up and take responsibility for its mismanagement of the economy. It is time for the government to stop asking others to pay for its mistakes, to live up to its commitments and provide fair and just grants in lieu of taxes to Canadian municipalities.

**LITERACY DAY**

**Mr. Chris Axworthy (Saskatoon—Clark's Crossing):** Mr. Speaker, a single mother in Saskatchewan who is raising three of her own children and two foster children went back to school when her pre-schooler caught her pretending to read. She is determined to learn to read but she should not have to do it alone.

In 1991 the government made a commitment to five million Canadians who have low literacy skills, promising to cut illiteracy rates in half by the year 2000. Today we are no closer to that goal.

Illiteracy is one of the greatest barriers to productivity and full employment in Canada. Some 38 per cent of Canadians have difficulty with everyday reading and are likely to be unemployed or underemployed. The resulting poverty has huge social costs.

Illiteracy costs Canada over \$14 billion annually. Today is Love Literacy Day. It is time the government made literacy a top priority. It is time it invested in literacy programs as part of Canada's job strategy.

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**STOUFFERS**

**Mrs. Christine Stewart (Northumberland):** Mr. Speaker, one year ago an important Trenton employer, Stouffers, announced the permanent layoff of 171 employees, a severe blow to a community already devastated by other plant closures and layoffs.

Special assistance was requested from federal departments in order to assure that the unemployed, the affected community businesses and the community at large would have every advantage to successfully adjust to the harsh economic reality.

Pursuant to this request an employment and immigration officer from the regional office visited Stouffers on April 6 and April 9, 1992 met with management and employees and provided misinformation which has cost 85 employees two to five weeks of unemployment insurance.

The case was appealed last month, but the board of referees refused to take any responsibility for the department's error. This is grossly unfair. I have asked the employment minister on many occasions to address this injustice. There has been no response.