

The Budget—Mr. MacLaren

I commend for reading this report to all Hon. Members. It attests to their colleagues' diligent and thoughtful input. Our Canadian Ambassador, Derek Fraser, his wife Christine, as well as our foreign service officers, were gracious and extremely helpful. The delegation was supported by competent parliamentary staff in the persons of Committee Branch Clerk Stephen Knowles, and researcher Barbara Reynolds.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, in this the Centennial Year of the Union, I would like to draw the attention of Members to your contribution to this important event by authorizing an official of this House, Mr. Philip Landy, Clerk Assistant, to prepare a book on "Parliaments in the Modern World", which will be released at the Centenary Conference in London and will be a landmark study. For this we thank you.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

[*Editor's note: See today's Votes and Proceedings.*]

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PETITIONS

VIA RAIL SERVICE

Mr. Howard McCurdy (Windsor—Lake St. Clair): Mr. Speaker, I have a number of petitions all duly certified, signed by some 2,000 constituents from Windsor and area.

These petitioners call upon the Government to provide the resources that they have failed to provide with respect to VIA Rail, take cognizance of the increased inefficiency, inconvenience, and indeed danger entailed as a result of deregulation of air transportation. They call attention to the promises of the Conservatives now in government to improve VIA Rail transportation.

It takes notice of the environmental implications of failure to encourage rapid rail transport. They humbly pray and call upon Parliament to maintain improved, modernized VIA Rail service in those areas of the country where it can provide a more rapid, economical, safe, convenient, environmentally sound and energy efficient alternative to other means of transportation.

DRINKING WATER PIPELINE

Mr. Rex Crawford (Kent): Mr. Speaker, I have a petition signed by almost 3,000 residents of Wallaceburg who need a pipeline to get clean drinking water.

Communities downstream from the chemical valley along the St. Clair River have had to cope with over 300 chemical spills in the last three years.

Those communities should not have to pay for this pipeline. They are not responsible for the spills, and all we ask is that the Government contributes 25 per cent of the pipeline's total cost. The provincial Government has already guaranteed 75 per cent of the cost. This pipeline is not an infrastructure. This is an emergency.

REDUCTION OF POVERTY

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops): Mr. Speaker, it is my honour to present a petition to the House, pursuant to Standing Order 36.

It is from a number of western Canadians who point out that nearly four million Canadians are presently living in poverty as defined by Statistics Canada. In regions of Canada such as Newfoundland poverty strikes one in two unattached individuals. Forty per cent of Canadian families headed by women live in poverty, as again defined by the Government of Canada.

The petitioners are calling upon Parliament to encourage Canada's First Ministers to establish on an urgent basis a plan of action in order to reduce poverty in Canada. After seeing the Budget of yesterday, I guess they should be doing this with considerable expedition.

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QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

Mr. Albert Cooper (Parliamentary Secretary to Government House Leader): Mr. Speaker, I ask that all questions stand.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Shall all questions stand?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[*English*]

THE BUDGET

FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF THE MINISTER OF FINANCE

The House resumed from Thursday, April 27, 1989, consideration of the motion of Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre) that this House approves in general the budgetary policy of the Government.