

[Translation]

It being one o'clock, I do now leave the chair until two o'clock this afternoon.

At 1 p.m. the House took recess.

AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 2 p.m.

STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S.O. 21

[English]

INDUSTRY

SHUTDOWN OF BRITISH COLUMBIA SHAKE AND SHINGLE INDUSTRY

Mr. Gerry St. Germain (Mission-Port Moody): Mr. Speaker, a study just completed in the eastern half of my riding by the Dewdney-Alouette regional district has found that the unemployment rate there is 47 per cent, or nearly half the work force. This unemployment is largely due to the shutdown of the shake and shingle industry. In spite of millions of tax dollars having been paid to all levels of government by this industry, no assistance or incentives have been put forward for research and development, or market development. We now have a major export industry in trouble simply because no planning or forethought was undertaken. We need economic development and diversification in our local economy to address this crippling unemployment problem. With almost half the work force unemployed, no retail operation, business, or family remains unaffected.

I am not looking to blame anyone; I am looking for solutions and immediate action. Partisan politics must be shoved aside. I call upon the Government to sit down with the Dewdney-Alouette regional district representatives when they visit Ottawa next month, along with myself, to discuss this problem. I suggest, Mr. Speaker, and I believe, we must take this opportunity to initiate a major reforestation and R and D effort to preserve this area's largest industry. Haggling between the provincial and federal Governments over reforestation is hurting our entire country, not to mention the citizens of my riding.

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[Translation]

SHIPBUILDING

REQUEST FOR FEDERAL GOVERNMENT CO-OPERATION

Mr. Gaston Gourde (Parliamentary Secretary to Solicitor General of Canada): Mr. Speaker, last week, the plan to modernize Davie Shipbuilding Limited entered a new phase

S.O. 21

when the Government of Quebec decided to provide a grant of \$4.95 million. Although some time ago, the Quebec government decided to put everything on hold because of the possibility that Davie Shipbuilding might be sold, for some reason it has now changed its position. However, its initial refusal has set back a study of the plan by several weeks. In any case, it seems that federal officials have been informed they can proceed with consideration of the application for a grant from the federal Government.

I therefore urge the federal authorities to act as soon as possible, bearing in mind the importance of Davie Shipbuilding for the Quebec City region. I would ask all intervenors to give this matter the attention it deserves. The situation at Davie Shipbuilding is not very encouraging, but if this plan were to become a matter of co-operation instead of confrontation, both the company, its employees and the region would benefit.

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[English]

HOUSING

CALL FOR LEGISLATION TO ASSIST HOME OWNERS

Mr. Ron Stewart (Simcoe South): Mr. Speaker, in his February Budget, this fancy brochure of unfulfilled promises I hold in my hand, the Minister of Finance (Mr. Lalonde) said that owning a home is an abiding goal in life for millions of Canadians. He vowed that help was on the way for mortgage rate protection, fixed-rate, long-term mortgages, and more humane penalties for renegotiating existing home loans. More than two months have passed and there is no sign of even draft legislation to ensure that Canadians might realize their aspirations, especially now that interest rates are once again on their way upward.

Parliament will soon rise for summer recess and possibly an election campaign. It could be a year or more before home owners are offered any type of protection. Government advertising presently suggests that home owners add insurance premiums to their mortgage principal, instead of paying it up front, making the cost of the plan more expensive.

We received the speech, the glossy brochures, the budget papers and the broken promises. Before it is too late, Mr. Minister, I ask you on behalf of Canadian home owners and prospective home owners: where is the beef?

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[Translation]

HOUSE OF COMMONS

CHANGE IN LANDSCAPING—REQUEST THAT SPEAKER CONDUCT INQUIRY

Mr. Claude-André Lachance (Rosemont): Mr. Speaker, this afternoon I want to express my indignation about what hap-