

S. O. 31

Mr. Speaker, I cannot see any parachutes opening on the labour side of the economic landscape. I see only workers falling to earth with lead parachutes, not golden parachutes.

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[Translation]

THE DISABLED

Mr. Guy Saint-Julien (Abitibi): Mr. Speaker, the Conservative minister from Pierrefonds—Dollard and Secretary of State of Canada has given a grant to the Val-d'Or disabled people's club for a project related to an independent living centre in Val-d'Or.

An independent living centre promotes and encourages the gradual process whereby disabled people take responsibility for the development and management of personal and community resources. It must be open to meet the needs of all disabled people, regardless of handicap or age.

Mr. Speaker, I am aware of the valuable work done by Anne-Marie Desmarais, Bernard Michaud and all those involved. The proposed activities will help meet the objectives of the Disabled Persons Participation Program in the Val-d'Or region.

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ANCESTRAL LANGUAGE TRAINING

Mr. Alfonso Gagliano (Saint-Léonard): Mr. Speaker, for many Canadians, the teaching of ancestral languages is essential for safeguarding and preserving their cultural heritage. Unfortunately, with the stroke of a pen, the government has told Canadians that this program will no longer exist.

Since then, the Picai Organization has circulated a petition in my riding, which has a large Italian community, and in the greater Montreal area. This petition asks the government to restore the funds necessary for heritage language teaching. My colleague from Laval-Est and I received this petition containing 22,000 signatures and will send it to the Minister responsible for Multiculturalism today.

I say to this Conservative Government, that if it really believes in multiculturalism, it will maintain the pro-

grams needed to promote it and ensure that Canada remains a multicultural country.

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[English]

NATIONAL UNITY

Hon. Alan Redway (Don Valley East): Mr. Speaker, should one part of Canada have the unilateral right to separate?

If the answer is yes, doesn't it also mean that a region, district or county has the right to separate from a province, a city from a region and a neighbourhood from a city? What mechanism do we use to negotiate such a separation and how do we settle our differences if we cannot agree on the terms of separation?

If the answer is no, what compromises should we make to eliminate or reduce the grievances that have brought some Canadians to the point of wanting to separate or should they just have to lump it?

The answers to these questions are not easy for any of us, because in the very concept of separation we have a tiger by the tail.

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WELFARE

Mr. Ross Stevenson (Durham): Mr. Speaker, *Financial Post* columnist Diane Francis has pointed out that in Ontario anyone earning less than \$45,000 a year could be better off on welfare.

An unemployed couple with two children could receive the tax-free equivalent of that income through welfare payments, clothing, medical and other allowances. Such information is one reason why working people who pay taxes are so frustrated today.

The 17 per cent welfare increase adopted in January by Ontario's NDP government will be welcomed by those in genuine need. Unfortunately, there are some who abuse this program. These abusers are not just cheating government but dipping into the pockets of all others who pay taxes.

I call on all three levels of government to ensure our welfare programs not only are adequate but affordable and targeted to those in genuine need.