

STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S. O. 31

[English]

EDUCATION

Ms. Catherine Callbeck (Malpeque): Mr. Speaker, once again students are being hurt by this government's policies. The budget abolishes the six month interest free period on student loans after graduation. This will place students deeper in debt as they prepare to launch their careers.

The federal government seems to be oblivious to the fact that its economic policies have made jobs scarce for students. It seems intent on making it as difficult as possible for students to get started in their careers.

With the GST on books, the fact that \$800 million will be cut in transfers for education and health this year and cuts to student employment programs, one would think this government has gouged students enough.

I call on this government to recognize that if our country is to be competitive, if our workforce is to succeed, if our economy is to prosper, the federal government will need to stop attacking students with its policies and start assisting them.

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AIR-SEA RESCUE

Mr. Peter L. McCreath (South Shore): Mr. Speaker, during the 1988 election campaign the government promised that it would locate a fisheries patrol and air-sea rescue helicopter in southwestern Nova Scotia. Shortly after the election Tom Siddon delivered on that promise and the helicopter came to Yarmouth.

During the last three years the helicopter has had a profound impact in deterring fisheries violations in the Scotia-Fundy region. As well, there are a number of fishermen alive today who owe their lives to the existence of that helicopter.

Now the contract is up for renewal. One hears that there is a push from officials in Ottawa to discontinue the helicopter service. In the strongest terms possible I urge the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans and the Minister of National Defence not to yield to these recommendations.

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The helicopter service must remain in Yarmouth. The lives of Nova Scotia fishermen must not be put on the chopping block.

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THE BUDGET

Mr. John Brewin (Victoria): Mr. Speaker, in the budget the government recognized on the one hand the end of the cold war by announcing the withdrawal of all Canadian forces stationed with NATO in Europe. Yet on the other hand the government failed to deliver on the peace dividend that the historic events in Europe required.

In this budget the government is actually increasing defence spending by \$150 million in the upcoming year, by \$400 million next year, while it cuts the Canadian Institute for International Peace and Security, cuts Official Development Assistance, cuts \$75 million from the green plan. The government is actually increasing spending on capital projects under the defence budget. This is simply bizarre.

The time has come for the government to take a new look at the role of Canadian forces in the post cold war period, to cancel the NORAD agreement, to come up with a new role on our coasts and to begin to produce a peace dividend to deal with global poverty, the global environmental crisis and a new approach to—

Mr. Speaker: The member's time has expired.

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[Translation]

MINING EXPLORATION

Mr. Guy Saint-Julien (Abitibi): Mr. Speaker, the Association des prospecteurs du Québec is very disappointed with this budget in which the government did not take into account any of the fiscal measures suggested by the association in order to restore funding for mining exploration in Quebec and in Canada. Since the elimination of the Canadian Exploration Incentive Program in February 1990 the federal government does not think that the mining exploration activity, and hence the mining industry is a key component in the economic development of our resource areas and of Canada.