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have to pay anything. The proposed cuts in the Veterans Independence Program is designed to allow veterans not to have to go into long-care homes. They are making their cuts, forcing veterans to go into long-care homes. Shame on this despicable action by the government.

An hon. member: Bring back George Hees.

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CANADA ASSISTANCE PLAN

Mrs. Coline Campbell (South West Nova): Mr. Speaker, the budget this week took steps to dismantle another universal program, the Canada Assistance Plan. This cost-shared program provides social and welfare assistance to persons in need and many other essential social services. By bringing in a cap on the Canada Assistance Plan the government has said there is a limit to funds available for social services. The finance minister cites the high growth rate of programs in the have-provinces as evidence that the cap on CAP is needed but seems to ignore the possibility that those programs grow because the need for them grows and the federal government has entered into an agreement to provide assistance for these programs.

Having now capped CAP in three provinces, what will be needed to do so in a have-not province? Just the implementation of the government's national day care system in one province might bring the need for 50 cent dollars above 5 per cent.

In another way, the minister indirectly reduces federal CAP spending by freezing the established programs financing for all provinces. With less money in the provincial coffers the provinces will be harder pressed to generate their own contributions to the cost shared programs under the Canada Assistance Plan. This in turn will eliminate federal spending under CAP and federal responsibility to those people most in need and least able to speak out against such measures.

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PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

Mr. Bill Casey (Cumberland—Colchester): Mr. Speaker, Prince Edward Island suffers a tremendous economic handicap compared to other Maritime provinces, which I

attribute to the ferry crossing which effectively provides a barrier to trade, economic development and tourism.

Even before the impact of Summerside, P.E.I. had an unemployment rate 30 per cent higher than New Brunswick. It had an unemployment rate 50 per cent higher than Nova Scotia. The P.E.I. average income is the lowest in the Maritimes. Transfer payments per capita, are the highest. Youth unemployment runs at 25 per cent, which explains why so many young people must leave P.E.I. to establish careers.

I believe the only reason for these inequities is the ferry crossing. I predict that the fixed link will correct this situation, but at the same time the P.E.I. government cannot control such growth to comply with the wishes of Prince Edward Islanders.

I urge all those in favour of this project to prepare and present their positions to the environmental review panel hearings beginning on Prince Edward Island on March 19. My Amherst office will be pleased to provide assistance with any of these applications.

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SASKATCHEWAN CURLING CHAMPIONS

Mr. Larry Schneider (Regina—Wascana): Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the 1990 Saskatchewan Provincial Curling Champions. Tina Ford and the junior girls team will be competing in the National Junior Girls Championship in Sudbury. The Saskatchewan men's champ, Jamie Schneider, won the world junior championship in 1984, and will soon be competing in the Canadian Men's Championship.

The woman's champ is the two-time Canadian finalist, Michelle Schneider, who is representing Saskatchewan for the third time in Ottawa this week.

I take special pride in the accomplishments of these two world-class curlers, not only because they hail from Kronau and Regina, Saskatchewan, but because they are my cousins.

I wish their competitors luck. They will need it.

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WESTERN ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION

Mr. David Walker (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, I rise to decry the decline of western economic diversification under this government. When this party