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In speaking with the Canadian Ambassador to the United Nations, the Hon. Yves Fortier, yesterday morning, it is my understanding that Canada will be represented at the ceremony.

At the moment the United Nations peace bell rings, I hope all Canadians will pause and pray with the world community that we all find the strength internationally to become responsible trustees of earth, each in our own area of ability and influence.

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CANADA ASSISTANCE PLAN

Mr. Chris Axworthy (Saskatoon—Clark's Crossing): Mr. Speaker, yesterday the National Council of Welfare, the government's own advisory board, said what the NDP has been saying all along: Cuts to the Canada Assistance Plan are irrational and unconscionable, especially at this time of a recession.

It is just the latest indication of how ill-equipped the Minister of Finance is to deal with issues of social policy, and how inappropriate it is for him to attempt to do so. The budget is not the appropriate vehicle for major changes in social policies such as the cap on CAP.

Where did the Minister of Finance get his advice from? From bankers and businessmen who have never spoken to a person on welfare in their lives? Where was the highly publicized Children's Bureau when the latest cap on CAP was being considered? Was it even consulted, or are its powers so limited that it has no real say in how the policies of this government affect children? These policies do affect children because children make up 37 per cent of Canadians receiving welfare.

If this is what the Prime Minister means when he says children are our most valuable resource, then I fear for the future of children in this country.

This government does not listen to Canadians, but should it not listen to its own advisers and stop these attacks on Canada's social programs?

SPRING

Mr. Stan Wilbee (Delta): Mr. Speaker, over the past dozen or more years, CKNW-98 in New Westminster, British Columbia has celebrated the arrival of spring by distributing B.C. grown daffodils to all members of Parliament.

In spite of the snowiest winter of the last 40 years on the B.C. lower mainland, these daffodils remind us that spring comes to B.C. first and symbolize the start of a new season of tourism in British Columbia.

Thousands more daffodils are being distributed to shoppers throughout the lower mainland today by CKNW hostesses.

By the way, the station CKNW stands for Canadians Know Nice Weather. We welcome you all to truly beautiful British Columbia.

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RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

Mr. Scott Thorkelson (Edmonton—Strathcona): Mr. Speaker, tomorrow, March 21, the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, commemorates the day in 1960 when more than 70 people were killed and over 180 wounded while demonstrating peacefully against apartheid in Sharpsville, South Africa. Six years later the United Nations proclaimed this date as a special day of observance when people of all nations should not just examine their own record on racism but do more to combat it.

Racism is a violation of human rights and dignity. It limits an individual's potential and dehumanizes both its victims and its perpetrators who themselves are victims of ignorance and fear.

I invite every citizen of our great country to renew his or her commitment to equality and freedom. The Canadian dream will not be complete until all people across this nation are accorded equal dignity, equal access and equal participation. In our hearts and minds we have to make every day the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. We have the vision; we have the drive; we have the will.