

*S. O. 31*

equipment loans and support for veterans and seniors. Last year 13,000 Canadians who suffered minor emergencies and major disasters were helped by the Red Cross.

Whenever we hear media reports about a natural disaster or a war we will also hear that the Red Cross is there providing assistance. Last year the Red Cross channelled some \$34 million worth of aid to people in 80 countries around the world.

I would ask all members of the House to join me in wishing the Red Cross Society and its volunteers a very successful Red Cross Month.

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[*Translation*]

#### FRENCH LANGUAGE COLLEGES IN ONTARIO

**Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa—Vanier):** Mr. Speaker, many Ontario residents and especially students who wish to continue their education have a vested interest in seeing new community colleges established in Ontario.

According to the province, the federal government is not co-operating.

I will read verbatim a press release issued by Ontario Minister of Education David Cooke, in which he said, and I quote:

There are rumours that the federal government is renegeing on its agreement with the province on financing for a French language college in the north and another one in the southwest. It has been almost a year since the province said it was ready to sign the agreement with the federal government. How much longer will francophones in northern and southern Ontario have to wait for the federal government to make up its mind?

• (1410)

There is one community college in Ottawa. There are 2,900 students, and they have the right to be educated in French in Ontario. They have that right under the Constitution.

I want to ask the government to stop dragging its feet and conclude an agreement with the Province of Ontario on the acquisition of the land and building concerned.

[*English*]

#### FISHERIES

**Mr. Peter L. McCreath (South Shore):** Mr. Speaker, I understand that a special committee of cabinet is now working on an adjustment package to assist individuals and communities impacted by the severe reductions in groundfish quotas in the Scotia Fundy and Gulf regions.

I wish to impress upon the government the urgency of this situation. There are significant numbers of people in coastal communities such as Lockeport, Lunenburg and Louisburg who have either exhausted their UI claims or who have been unable to get sufficient work to qualify in the first place. These numbers will drastically increase during the next two to three weeks.

I urge the government, and in particular the ministers of fisheries and employment, to make an announcement this week that will clearly indicate to people in the affected communities that the Government of Canada is there to assist them during this time of particular difficulty.

Today the government must give clear indication that help is on its way and it will be adequate.

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[*Translation*]

#### POVERTY

**Hon. André Ouellet (Papineau—Saint-Michel):** Mr. Speaker, last night Radio-Canada broadcast a very moving television program on poverty in Montreal. My congratulations to narrator Ms. Dussault and producer Ms. Payette, who managed to show us the poverty in which, unfortunately, too many Canadians live, while respecting the dignity of these poor mothers and their children.

Under nine years of Conservative rule the gap between rich and poor has widened increasingly. We need an election to replace a government dedicated to the interests of the rich with a Liberal team that has heart and compassion and shows a firm resolve to help the neediest in our society.