

# HOUSE OF COMMONS

Wednesday, January 31, 1990

The House met at 2 p.m.

---

*Prayers*

---

## STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S. O. 31

[English]

### CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION

**Mr. Joseph Volpe (Eglinton—Lawrence):** Mr. Speaker, leaked reports abound that senior cabinet ministers may resign because they can no longer stomach their government's undermining of Canada's social and economic infrastructure with its cuts to VIA Rail and the unemployment insurance system, its withdrawal of commitment to foreign aid and its mismanagement of the fishing industry, tax reform and the economy in general.

Now the CBC is implementing the government's imposed cuts of \$140 million ahead of schedule. The policy of stripping \$280 million from the CBC since 1984 is undermining that corporation's ability to promote a distinctively Canadian identity, to foster culture and arts reflective of Canadian values and the various cultural communities that make up those values. It is indicative of this government's misplaced priorities.

The CBC is increasingly less able to promote Canada's two official languages, to promote a mutual appreciation of Canada's multicultural communities, to mitigate the influence of television media from south of the border and to sustain communication services to those living in northern and regional communities.

If the Minister of Communications cannot defend the CBC from his government's distorted priorities, perhaps he should follow the lead of his colleagues on other issues and threaten to take his questionable talents elsewhere.

### THE ENVIRONMENT

**Hon. David MacDonald (Rosedale):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Toronto City Council for taking a leadership role in developing a blueprint to save the environment.

Yesterday, Toronto City Council endorsed in principle a report prepared by the city's special advisory committee on the environment. The report will lead to an action plan to slow down the greenhouse effect and combat global warming.

Toronto is the first city in the world to take such action. The report has called for a cut in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 20 per cent by the year 2005, the encouragement of public transit, alternative fuels and energy conservation, improvement of bicycle paths, extensive tree planting as trees remove CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere, a \$23 million atmospheric fund and the pursuit of a 10 per cent carbon tax.

Our government, provincial and municipal governments, and governments around the world should applaud Toronto's initiative and look to Toronto as a world leader in the fight against global warming and the greenhouse effect.

\* \* \*

### SOCIAL PROGRAMS

**Mr. Chris Axworthy (Saskatoon—Clark's Crossing):** Mr. Speaker, during *The Week Starts Here* program on CBC Newsworld last Sunday the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance stated, in response to a question about ending universal funding for medicare, that if we want to keep social programs in 10 years wealthy people should start to pay for them now. His approach was to suggest that the same clawback approach used for old age security and family benefits be considered for medicare.

As well, a number of business groups have called upon the government to make drastic cuts to social programs. In his statements this week the Prime Minister has willingly agreed to accept the position as chief execution-