

*S. O. 31*

about the safety of drinking water can be nerve wracking. One only need ask the people who live downstream from chemical valley on the St. Clair River. Residents are held hostage to the constant fear that a toxic spill could jeopardize their health. They have coped with over 300 spills in three years—300 spills, Mr. Speaker!

The Government said “no” to helping communities downstream get a clean water supply. The Tories said, “It’s not our problem”.

The Tories said “no” to municipal infrastructure. Those saying “yes” include every Government in every municipality, province and territory, Liberal, Conservative, and NDP. They know federal funding is needed for a clean and safe environment. Water supply projects are a national problem needing a national response.

The Tories are the odd man out. They are copping out. Canadians in Kent, in Toronto, in Newcastle, New Brunswick, should not be forced to drink bottled water.

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## EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

## INTERMEDIATE RANGE MISSILES IN EUROPE

**Mr. Dan Heap (Trinity—Spadina):** Mr. Speaker, Canada has undertaken to give qualified support to the American position in favour of modernizing the range of nuclear weapons in Europe. In yesterday’s editorial in the *New York Times* we have the sober, critical voice of Anthony Lewis who stated:

Last year’s treaty on intermediate-range nuclear forces required the Soviet Union to dismantle the 239 SS-23 missiles it had in Europe. Soviet officials had argued that the SS-23’s range was just below the 300-mile threshold set in the treaty, but to meet American concerns they agreed to include it.

The Americans propose to advance the range of the Lance to 280 miles, almost the very same range that they insisted on denying to the Soviet Union. Mr. Shevardnadze, the Soviet Foreign Minister, was talking very tough about that, which may or may not be the way we are expecting Mr. Gorbachev to negotiate. As Mr. Lewis stated, we are asking them to destroy their weapons and then we are putting in weapons that are nearly the same.

I ask the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Clark) to use his good offices to persuade the White House to back off on its modernization.

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## TRANSPORT

## PROTEST RAIL LINE ABANDONMENT

**Mr. Greg Thompson (Carleton—Charlotte):** Mr. Speaker, in our efforts to control the national debt, no part of the country has borne that burden any more strongly than Atlantic Canada. We have done it, and we will continue to do it.

However, the point I want to make is simply that we cannot afford to have our rail lines continually abandoned in that part of Canada, particularly in my home Province of New Brunswick.

I urge the Minister of Transport (Mr. Bouchard) to take a serious look at regional development, to take a serious look at what we need in the Province of New Brunswick, and to take a serious look at stopping the continual abandonment of rail lines.

I also urge the Minister of Transport to take a very serious look at VIA Rail and maintain VIA Rail. We need it, we use it, and we don’t want to lose it.

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## LIBRARY OF PARLIAMENT

## TRIBUTE TO LIBRARY STAFF

**Mr. Larry Schneider (Regina—Wascana):** Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the staff of the Library of Parliament for the excellent job that they do on behalf of all parliamentarians. Both the information and Technical Services Branch and the Research Branch provide prompt and professional service at all times.

The effectiveness of the Library is quite obviously a reflection of the quality of the people who work there. Their ability to provide information and analyses on complex matters on short notice requires a great deal of skill and hard work. Without this constant level of professionalism, the House would function on a less than adequate level.

On a related matter, our public and school libraries serve an equally important function for the general