

*Oral Questions**[English]***CANADIAN COAST GUARD**

Ms. Mary Clancy (Halifax): The Canadian Coast Guard inshore rescue program has existed for 14 years, providing both summer employment and a quick response prime research and rescue unit, but the latest budget threatens to change the entire character of the program.

It has been suggested that the qualifications necessary to work in the IRP will be eased in order to open the program up to career oriented summer employment plan jobs at a lower hourly rate and that the jobs will simply be opened up under a non-close up agreement, saving the ministry even more money per hour.

There are six IRP stations in Atlantic Canada, employing 36 students. They assist the RCMP and local authorities in the exercise of their duties. They conduct safety examinations; search for lost vessels; tows for vessels in danger and other distress situations.

These stations performed 250 rescues in 1990 from May until October and saved an estimated 30 lives.

The importance of this program and the need for trained and qualified personnel is clear. Therefore, I ask the Minister of Transport to carefully consider the Canadian and tourist safety and maintain the same high standards that the IRP has kept for 14 years.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD*[English]***POVERTY**

Ms. Sheila Copps (Hamilton East): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National Health and Welfare.

Yesterday we heard in this House that the government intends to spend millions of dollars to send propaganda information to households across this country to sell this government's disastrous budget and the GST.

Today we learn, in a report tabled by an advisory committee to the government, the National Council of Welfare, that in fact this government is the first govern-

ment in history to pull back from its basic commitment to the needs of the poor.

I would like to ask the Minister of National Health and Welfare why it is that his policies do not support those people who most need our help and why his government is pulling back from its basic commitment to the needs of the poor and the sick across this country.

Hon. Perrin Beatty (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, just the opposite happens to be the case. What we are determined to do is to ensure that Canada's social programs are founded on a firm foundation.

I want to indicate to the hon. member that simply proposing that we continue to pile deficit upon deficit, debt upon debt, without any restriction in the future, is the single greatest threat to the existence of Canada's social services network.

Ms. Sheila Copps (Hamilton East): It is no wonder that the National Council on Welfare, the government's advisory body has said about the 1990 budget that it has reinforced the council's concerns about leaving social policy to the finance department. Is it not about time that the Minister of National Health and Welfare took his responsibilities?

I would like to ask him how he and his government can justify taking \$865 million over the next two years out of the mouths of mothers and their children and those people on welfare benefits who most need the help. How can he justify an \$865 million cut to those people who really need our help, the poor of this country?

Hon. Perrin Beatty (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, if the hon. member is sincere when she claims to be concerned about Canada's children, she will be aware of the fact that every man, woman and child in this country has a debt in Ottawa of over \$15,000. She may believe that the appropriate way to deal with Canada's children is for this generation to spend and for us to simply send the bill to our kids. On this side we do not believe so.

Some hon. members: Hear, hear.

[Translation]

Ms. Sheila Copps (Hamilton East): Mr. Speaker, I am talking about food for poor children now living in Montreal, Quebec City, and Chicoutimi.