

lobbyists to do their bidding or special interest groups to fax dozens of pages of information across the country.

My special interest group is my constituents and I will fight for them every day. I am proud to support the government and Bill C-17.

**Mr. Ian McClelland (Edmonton Southwest):** Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the member opposite for his comments.

I wonder if the hon. member would expand on one thing he touched on in his speech. It was also in the presentation of the Liberal member who preceded him. It is the effect of part-time employment on a community. In particular, I wonder if the member opposite has given any thought to extending benefits to part-time employees. As many members are aware, a very high percentage of people are in our workforce now only because they are consistently able to get part-time employment and they have two or three part-time jobs.

I wonder if the member opposite could comment.

**Mr. Crawford:** Mr. Speaker, I wish to thank the hon. member for his question.

In my riding of Kent, which is the most depressed area in Ontario at the present time, part-time work is about the only type of job people can get.

Personally, I support benefits for part-time workers. I also feel that people who are on welfare should be allowed to work to top up their benefits without penalty. If people do find part-time work, as soon as they are laid off, which is usually within a few short weeks, then it is another battle to get back on the rolls again.

We have been promoting, and I think we have the hon. member's support, an ethanol plant in the city of Chatham. This \$170 million plant will employ only 90 to 100 people within the plant. Outside the plant over 400 will benefit from it. It is something I have been trying to get through the government with the help of the opposition parties. I hope the hon. member will support it because I certainly support his views to a great extent.

• (1355)

**Mr. Peter Adams (Peterborough):** Mr. Speaker, I listened with great interest to both the previous presentations. I wonder if the member would care to comment on the situation of students.

At the present time young people are having a particularly difficult existence. We are encouraging them to stay in school. We are encouraging them to get training. However the costs of school and the costs of training become more and more arduous.

*S.O. 31*

We really must look at different ways for students to pay back their loans, in particular ways which mean that graduating students who get very low paying jobs do not have to pay their student loan immediately. Later those loans could be paid back in proportion to the money they earn, in proportion to the tax they pay, rather than in a very fixed period of time which really works against those who cannot early on in their careers obtain well paying jobs.

I wonder if the member would care to comment on that.

**Mr. Crawford:** Mr. Speaker, I wish to thank the hon. member for his question pertaining to students and repaying their loans.

I have had many students come to my office, especially over the last two weeks when we had a break, who are worried about this. They are now being billed by the banks and they do not have jobs.

The government through supporting job creation, youth internship and apprenticeship programs will certainly help to alleviate their problems.

I cannot give a figure on how much money right now, but I was talking to UIC and it is putting quite a few students back to work right now. UIC is giving them the opportunity to carry on their education or to be able to pay off the money they owe. The government is on the right track in helping these students and I certainly support it 100 per cent.

**The Speaker:** The hon. member for Kootenay West. The hon. member will note the time. Perhaps he would like to begin his statement but I would be interrupting him. If not, I could go to Statements by Members.

**Mr. Gouk:** Mr. Speaker, with all due respect, if I may make my full speech immediately after I would much prefer that.

**The Speaker:** Is it agreed then?

[Translation]

It being two o'clock, pursuant to Standing Order 30(5), the House will now proceed to Statements by Members, pursuant to Standing Order 31.

## STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

[Translation]

### MONTREAL

**Mr. Benoît Sauvageau (Terrebonne):** Mr. Speaker, following Montreal's selection as the host community for the NAFTA Environmental Commission, many inaccurate and vengeful things have been written about this city. Montreal has been described by some as an island in the middle of an open dump, as the worst city from an environmental standpoint not only in