

S. O. 31

[*Translation*]

GUN CONTROL

Mrs. Pierrette Venne (Saint-Hubert): Mr. Speaker, regarding the gun control bill, as you know I would have preferred legislation with stricter controls on firearms. I would have preferred to see military, paramilitary and modified semi-automatic weapons taken out of circulation altogether.

However, I must consider the pros and cons, which means whether to keep the present legislation which is defective in the extreme, or accept new legislation as a compromise solution that may not be perfect but will at least restrict access to firearms.

Finally, since I am being asked to look favourably on this bill and accept a compromise, I hope my pro-gun colleagues will do the same.

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INDUSTRY, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Mr. David Berger (Saint-Henri—Westmount): Mr. Speaker, a few years ago I said that Edison could not have invented the electric light bulb if he depended on this government's science and technology policy. That is still true today. Do we need further proof that the government cannot be taken seriously when it promises to ensure the prosperity of Canadians? Once again, we have it in the form of the government's reply to a recent report by the Standing Committee of the House on Industry, Science and Technology, Regional and Northern Development.

The government rejected all the recommendations made by the committee. It does not seem to understand the challenge that globalization represents for our economy. It does not seem to understand that the jobs of Canadians, economic prosperity and maintaining our social programs all depend on increased investment in science and technology.

The Minister of Industry, Science and Technology has now promised Canadians a new debate on prosperity. We do not need a debate. We need action. Unfortunately,

this government's actions are a clear contradiction of what we were promised.

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[*English*]

PUBLIC SERVICE OF CANADA

Miss Deborah Grey (Beaver River): Mr. Speaker, last week the government released a further example of its commitment to deficit reduction because of a crisis in its popularity.

The 1990 annual report of the Public Service of Canada showed that for the second consecutive year the size of the public service actually increased, for an increase of 6,335 since 1988. As well, for the fourth consecutive year the highest paid levels of the public service, the management category, increased.

Last fall the Auditor General had pointed to a certain lack of urgency in the government's efforts to control spending. Despite all its talk about restraint, we see a government which sees urgency the result of crisis, not commitment. It should be of little wonder that this government's budgets do not balance when its words and deeds do not.

If Canadians want sincere commitment to fiscal restraint, they need to send Reformers to Parliament.

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RURAL CRIME WATCH

Mr. Walter Van De Walle (St. Albert): Mr. Speaker, breaking and entering, theft, vandalism and trespassing are steadily increasing in rural Alberta. Rural Crime Watch, a co-operative effort by rural people and the RCMP, is confronting this situation.

Rural Crime Watch is an organization of rural people working together to reduce crime and protect property. They are creating public awareness and promoting crime prevention.

Three basic elements of the Rural Crime Watch are: property identification, house and building security, and range patrol. Rural crime is costing us millions of dollars each year. These costs are reflected in loss of property, increased insurance premiums and repair of equipment. Rural Crime Watch is helping to reduce these costs.

On behalf of the citizens of St. Albert riding, I wish to recognize the efforts of all those involved in Rural Crime Watch, working with the RCMP to make rural Alberta a safer place to live.