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mons or the Senate of Canada? Our new Constitution Act and the Statutes of Parliament offer no real guidance. Indeed, those few obligations that are imposed are couched in language best described as vague and uncertain.

The responsibility for the absence of a clear code of conduct must be borne by parliamentarians, past and present. Yet circumstances are continually arising in which individual parliamentarians must assess their own actions to determine whether they have violated any recognized standard of behaviour.

The process of personal self assessment is difficult for anyone, but for an elected representative sworn to perform parliamentary duties it is a nearly impossible task. Only vague legislative provisions and obscure historic precedents are present as guides. The answer to questions of personal conduct can only be found in the heart and soul of the person who examines his or her own conscience.

● (1110)

It is in that context that Canadians should consider the decision of the Hon. Member for Scarborough East (Mr. Gilchrist) to resign from the House of Commons. I am certain no code of conduct, however strict, enacted by Parliament, would ever require a Member of the House of Commons to resign while judicial proceedings were pending and the verdict not finalized. Nonetheless, the Hon. Member for Scarborough East has imposed upon himself a higher standard of conduct, one dictated by his own conscience and not imposed by any legal authority. No one has the right to stand in judgment on another but, if judgment is rendered, it must be that our colleague acknowledged a higher command—

Mr. Speaker: I regret to interrupt the Hon. Member, but his allotted time has expired.

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DISARMAMENT

PEACE PETITION CARAVAN CAMPAIGN

Ms. Pauline Jewett (New Westminster-Coquitlam): Mr. Speaker, Hon. Members of the House should be aware that a country-wide peace petition campaign has been officially launched. Called the Peace Petition Caravan Campaign, organizers and thousands of participants hope to impress upon Hon. Members, upon candidates for the next federal election, and upon the three political Parties, the urgency of ending the arms race and the critical need to end Canada's participation in it.

The campaign has four stated goals—no Cruise testing, declaration of Canada as a nuclear weapons-free zone, conversion of arms industries to other industrial production, and a free vote in Parliament on those issues.

It is a pleasure to tell Hon. Members of the House and concerned Canadians working for the Peace Petition Caravan that all of us in the New Democratic Party support the

campaign and heartily endorse its four goals. In fact, we have been working toward the same goals and publicly advocating them for some time.

In the House it has been the NDP which has twice brought forward motions for no Cruise testing in Canada, motions defeated by the combined opposition of the other two Parties. We have raised, time and again, questions about Cruise testing, and we have brought forward Private Members' Bills to declare Canada a nuclear weapons-free zone. All of us, and all NDP candidates for the next federal election, support the goals of the Peace Petition Caravan Campaign. I urge other Members and other Parties to do the same.

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THE ECONOMY

CONDEMNATION OF GOVERNMENT POLICIES

Mr. Dave Nickerson (Western Arctic): Mr. Speaker, the chickens of the Minister of Finance (Mr. Lalonde) are coming home to roost. His February Budget did nothing to restore confidence in the ability of the Government to run the financial affairs of Canada which, I might remind the House, have been on a downhill skid ever since the days of John Turner.

The Grit ruse of using the recession to disguise its failure to address the underlying cause of high interest rates and inflation, is ended. Today's prime rate of 11.5 per cent, up half a per cent as a result of increases in the bank rate yesterday, foreshadow higher mortgage rates and a consequent decline in residential construction and industrial activity.

Canada is bleeding foreign reserves in a vain attempt to prop up a sick dollar and an even sicker Liberal popularity. Inflation is up again—last month at an annualized rate of over 7 per cent—giving the lie to the Liberal six and five program. How much longer must we tolerate this nonsense? We must have an election, and we must have it now.

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AIRPORTS

HAMILTON CIVIC AIRPORT—EFFECT OF CONSTRUCTION WORK ON HAMILTON FLYING CLUB

Mr. Geoff Scott (Hamilton-Wentworth): Mr. Speaker, once again I wish to draw to the attention of the House the problems of Hamilton Civic Airport. For those Hon. Members who may not instantly recall the runway configurations at Mount Hope, let me outline what is happening as a result of the airport's expansion. Expansion is not the issue. All of us in the greater Hamilton area welcome the upgrading of our dilapidated airport to first-class regional status.

What concerns me and my constituents is the financial hardship this construction is causing members of the Hamilton Flying Club. This club was established in 1928 and is already having trouble keeping its head above water, or above the clouds, as the case may be.