

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): There will be three minutes available to the hon. member after question period, should he wish to conclude.

[Translation]

It being 1.51 p.m., I do now leave the chair until two o'clock this day.

At 1.51 p.m., the House took recess.

AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 2 p.m.

STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S. O. 31

[Translation]

MINING EXPLORATION

Mr. Guy Saint-Julien (Abitibi): Mr. Speaker, the *Association des prospecteurs du Québec* feels that the decision of the Minister of Finance to abolish the Canadian Exploration Incentive Program is a catastrophe for the financing of mining exploration in Canada.

The APQ points out however that the Minister has chosen to maintain the flow-through share scheme which allows for 100 per cent of the exploration expenditures incurred by the corporations to remain transferable to the investors.

The APQ feels that the administrative decision of the Minister of Finance is bad, in view of the total funds invested during the program implementation and start-up period, and that this decision was not based on the cost-effectiveness and efficiency of the program.

Personally, Mr. Speaker, I know that the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources of Canada and his officials have worked very hard to maintain this program and that this decision is simply the Minister of Finance's decision and his alone.

With all the prospectors and the mining industry of Quebec as a whole and Abitibi in particular, I will continue to strive to eventually obtain justice for them both from the Quebec and federal governments.

[English]

S. O. 31

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Hon. Chas. L. Caccia (Davenport): Mr. Speaker, in his single-minded pursuit of the deficit the Minister of Finance makes only passing reference in his budget to the government's commitment to sustainable development.

Three years after publication of the Brundtland Report this government has not rallied enough political will to act. For example, the Minister of Finance fails to see the importance of exempting from the goods and services tax products approved as environmental friendly, of introducing a carbon tax on consumption on fossil fuels, of changing the policy on fossil fuel megaprojects except for cutting the subsidy to OSLO, of shifting research and development funds to advance renewable resources of energy, of making a financial commitment to complete the national park system promised by the Minister of the Environment, of providing support programs to stabilize communities affected by the fisheries crisis, of strengthening Canada's research capability in the environment and so on.

In Ottawa, the gap between rhetoric and action is getting larger. Will the government ever act to implement sustainable development?

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VETERANS

Mr. Les Benjamin (Regina—Lumsden): Mr. Speaker, I rise to condemn the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Veterans Affairs for raising board and lodging charges for veterans in long-term care and cutting services provided to the Veterans' Independence Program. These two measures will enable the Minister of Finance to raise \$35 million over the next two years, coming at the expense of veterans who are already living in poverty. He ghoulishly attacks defenceless veterans.

The government says the increased charges for residential care are means tested. Mr. Speaker, the incomes test for single veterans and married veterans is half of the poverty line. Once they are over half of the poverty line they have to pay \$420 a month for their food and lodging. Veterans who live below the poverty line should not have to pay more for food and lodging in government long-term care facilities. In fact, veterans should not