

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Wednesday, November 2, 1994

The House met at 2 p.m.

Prayers

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

[English]

LONDON INVESTMENT AND EDUCATION COUNCIL

Mr. Pat O'Brien (London—Middlesex, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, learning is a life long process and in a rapidly changing world our vision of learning must be constantly changing and evolving. I am proud to say that the city of London is developing into a learning community.

The London Investment and Education Council is a non-profit community based group committed to bringing together students, business, labour, government, families and social and cultural organizations to plan initiatives and share information related to education.

The federal government recognizes that learning is a life long process and encourages all sectors of our community to become involved in the learning process. London truly is a learning community, thanks to the innovative work of the London Investment and Education Council.

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[Translation]

DEFICIT REDUCTION

Mr. René Laurin (Joliette, BQ): Mr. Speaker, last Saturday, the Minister of Finance said in an interview published in *Le Soleil* that everything to reduce the deficit was on the table. In other words, the minister is simply ignoring the commitment made by the Prime Minister in the last election campaign that he would not raise taxes. On the expenditure side, the minister tries to justify additional cuts in social programs that might total \$7.5 billion, arguing that everyone would have to do his or her share.

Instead of targeting the needy, the unemployed and the middle class, I suggest the minister take a good look at the government's operational expenditures, subsidies to corporations,

Defence spending and duplication, and ensure that taxpayers who live on high incomes are the first in line to pay their fair share of taxes.

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[English]

ORGANIZED CRIME

Mr. Bob Ringma (Nanaimo—Cowichan, Ref.): Mr. Speaker, police sources state the hub of Asian organized crime for the world will be situated in Vancouver and Vancouver Island by the turn of the decade. This statement has been acknowledged in part by the Solicitor General who recently supported the deployment of extra drug enforcement officers to Nanaimo.

The situation requires more than just extra police. The government must get serious about reforming and strengthening legislation in the areas of immigration, customs, justice, fisheries and human resources development.

The Reform Party recognizes the need for these changes. In my riding I have already started bringing together concerned members of the immigrant population with municipal, provincial and federal authorities to look at ways to make the system work for all Canadians. Next week I will continue the process and will report the results of this truly grassroots consultation process back to the House.

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SOCIAL REFORMS

Mr. John Finlay (Oxford, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, hon. members opposite often suggest that the views of Canadians are not taken seriously by the government. I want to tell my hon. friends that they are wrong.

Some of the suggestions made last April by my constituents appear in the discussion paper the Minister of Human Resources Development tabled in the House on October 5.

Oxford recommendations in this paper include: first, programs should be result oriented, with the emphasis on ending dependency.

Second, while everyone should pay into unemployment insurance, it should be structured more like private insurance so that those in higher risk areas of employment pay higher premiums. Third, to help those on welfare become independent the govern-