

S. O. 31

but it is also affected by the actions of other countries in the northern hemisphere. [Translation]

The eight countries that are working together on northern opportunities for the Arctic are very, very important in the future not only of Canada but those countries as well. As we enter into debate following Question Period, I look forward to imparting to the House the information about Bill C-72 and the establishment of a Canadian Polar Commission.

• (1100)

[Translation]

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

STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S. O. 31

[English]

CRIMINAL CODE

Hon. Bob Kaplan (York Centre): Madam Speaker, in spite of my respect for the Supreme Court of Canada and its enlightened jurisprudence, I must express disappointment in its decision on C195.1 of the Criminal Code (street soliciting).

For my part the dissenting judgments of Madam Justices Wilson and L'Heureux-Dubé reflect more fully the value we place on free speech and the availability of other solutions to the important goal of freeing neighbourhoods from the plague of public commercial sex. I recommend, for example, the study by Paul Fraser of Vancouver.

The House committee which is studying the impact of this law, 195.1, has had a lot of evidence that the law has not worked nearly well enough to justify its existence.

The courts impose ineffective light sentences because they feel accurately, I believe, that the vast majority of prostitutes whom they sentence are more victims than criminals. We need to relieve neighbourhoods of the blight of street soliciting, but we need a better solution.

UNEMPLOYMENT

Mr. Phillip Edmonston (Chambly): Madam Speaker, Tory neglect in the riding of Laurier—Sainte-Marie goes beyond lack of representation in this House. At a time when unemployment in the riding is over 20 per cent, this government is trying to increase unemployment even further with its high interest rate policy and its failure to do anything for East Montreal.

Half the families in Laurier—Sainte-Marie are single-parent families, and eight out of ten of these single parents are women. These people have suffered under this government. They have suffered as a result of cutbacks in co-operative housing and funding for women centres, and they have suffered due to a lack of manpower adjustment programs.

It will be a long and hot summer for the Conservatives in Laurier—Sainte-Marie, Madam Speaker. Voters in the riding are going to judge this government, and once again, the Tories will have every reason to fear their candidate will lose his deposit.

On the Liberal side, when Jean Chrétien, the next leader of the Liberal Party, winds up his leadership campaign, he may well see a second member for the New Democratic Party in Quebec, Ms. Louise O'Neil, elected on August 13.

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[English]

HOUSING

Mr. Greg Thompson (Carleton—Charlotte): Mr. Speaker, as the population in Canada ages it becomes increasingly important that the federal government take action and an active role in providing adequate and affordable housing for our senior citizens.

That is why I am pleased to be representing the Minister of State for Housing in my riding at the June 16 opening of the new Masonic seniors complex in Woodstock.

The federal government will be making a contribution of approximately \$50,000 annually over a period of 35 years. This direct contribution is in addition to the