

S. O. 31

[English]

### FOETAL ALCOHOL SYNDROME

**Mr. Ross Belsher (Fraser Valley East):** Madam Speaker, foetal alcohol syndrome, known as FAS, is a disease with far-reaching repercussions. It is caused before birth when a pregnant mother consumes alcohol.

While we do not know a great deal about FAS, we do know that children born with FAS exhibit varying symptoms of mental retardation. Some children are visibly handicapped, while others learn of their disabilities later in life. The trauma for the child in the family is great. It is often worse for adoptive parents who have no clue to the cause of their child's problem.

Witnesses appearing before the House committee on health issues told us there was no cure for the neurological damage of foetal alcohol syndrome. Although the tragedy is great there is hope. foetal alcohol syndrome can be prevented: Alcohol consumption should be avoided during pregnancy.

I encourage the Minister of National Health and Welfare to undertake with his provincial counterparts a campaign to inform expectant mothers about foetal alcohol syndrome. Let us avoid further tragedy.

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[Translation]

### CANADIAN INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

**Mr. Mark Assad (Gatineau—La Lièvre):** Madam Speaker, there was an article in the papers recently about excessive amounts spent by the Canadian International Development Agency on a reception held in Ottawa. This has created considerable controversy among Canadians and certainly does not enhance CIDA's reputation. In fact, it was not the first time excessive spending by the agency was mentioned.

Canada has a moral obligation to help less developed countries where famine and extreme poverty are prevalent. Considering its mandate and its mission, CIDA should realize that the public will not condone such excesses, which are a flagrant contradiction of its mission

to help countries where famine is endemic. I ask the government to order CIDA's senior officials to—

**Madam Deputy Speaker:** I am sorry to interrupt the hon. member but his time has expired. The hon. member for Drummond.

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### WINNERS OF MARC LESCARBOT AWARD

**Mr. Jean-Guy Guilbault (Drummond):** Madam Speaker, I welcome this opportunity to pay tribute to two of my constituents, winners of the Marc Lescarbot Award, in the local awards category, in recognition of their outstanding contribution to the advancement of the arts in the region. This year, the Lescarbot award, volunteer category, went to Germaine Proulx for her contribution to the arts. Ms. Proulx is well-known in local cultural circles. She was actively involved in promoting cultural activities in a number of areas, in addition to founding the Drummondville Ballet Academy which celebrates its 45th anniversary this year.

In the arts patron category, the Lescarbot award went to Noël Sylvain. Mr. Sylvain is a patron of the arts, in the true sense of the word. At his instigation, Union Life has repeatedly and in many ways supported, encouraged and sponsored artists and the arts in our region.

I am delighted to see that the unselfish and dynamic contribution made by Germaine Proulx and Noël Sylvain is finally given tangible recognition.

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[English]

### TRINITY—SPADINA CONFERENCE

**Mr. Dan Heap (Trinity—Spadina):** Madam Speaker, justice and jobs, alternatives to free trade and the corporate agenda will be the subject of a conference starting this evening in Trinity—Spadina, Toronto.

The themes will include thrust and key elements of the U.S.—Canada Free Trade Agreement and the proposed North American free trade agreement, discussion of alternatives for Canada and Latin America, strategies for democratizing the economy, how Canadian banks gouge Canadians and Latin Americans, why the banks support the FTA and NAFTA, and how NAFTA and the