

Oral Questions

Instead of providing increased support for the co-operative housing sector the government has reneged on its commitment to help build 5,000 units per year and threatens to destroy the concept by creating low income ghettos.

Instead of building on the brains and talents of local people by supporting worker co-operatives, the government shells out billions to large foreign corporations.

Instead of treating co-ops fairly, this government proposes to bring in GST legislation which will discriminate against co-ops and will make them uncompetitive.

We need governments with the political will to support the co-operative sector actively, not act as guardians of the interests of the rich and powerful.

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[*Translation*]

THE SENATE

Mr. Jean-Marc Robitaille (Terrebonne): Mr. Speaker, for three weeks we have been treated to an incredible display in the Senate, thanks to the Liberal senators, with the blessing of Jean Chrétien. The Liberal senators' foolishness is already costing Canadian taxpayers millions of dollars in additional costs, this with the blessing of Senator MacEachen. MacEachen, Chrétien and Trudeau almost brought this country to the verge of bankruptcy in 1980-1982. And now they want to finish the job and bankrupt the country altogether.

Mr. Speaker, enough is enough! Canadians are sick and tired of this asinine behaviour. I want to ask the government and the Prime Minister to take whatever action is necessary to uphold democratic principles, stop this waste of public funds and make the Liberal senators stop their shameless behaviour.

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[*English*]

HUMAN RIGHTS

Mrs. Christine Stewart (Northumberland): Mr. Speaker, this week Amnesty International is celebrating its 29th year of campaigning on behalf of political prisoners with a Prisoner of Conscience Week.

Although organizations like Amnesty International are crucial in establishing world-wide values promoting basic human rights, it is the role of this government and others to challenge those countries which flagrantly and systematically violate the basic human rights of their citizens. We must be our brothers' and sisters' keepers.

The fight against human rights violations is led by many valiant individuals around the world who every day risk their lives. We should be proud today of the visit of such a distinguished individual, Nineth de Garcia, president of the Guatemalan non-government organization Group of Mutual Support, who will be meeting with an all-party delegation later today.

Mrs. de Garcia founded the GAM group after the disappearance of her own husband, to press for human rights in Guatemala and to support families searching for missing relatives. Mrs. de Garcia, like many other Guatemalans and Canadians, is asking the Canadian government to link bilateral aid to an improvement in human rights in her country.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[*English*]

THE ENVIRONMENT

Mr. Paul Martin (LaSalle—Émard): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of the Environment. On Monday the minister said: "It will not be good enough to do an environmental review after Rafferty-Alameda is completed. Construction must stop".

On Tuesday he reversed his position and said he would and could do nothing.

Mr. Speaker, the minister was right on Monday. He was wrong on Tuesday. The minister says he cannot act because Saskatchewan has not breached the original agreement. If violation of the review panel's terms of reference is not a breach of the original agreement then it is because the original agreement was a set-up. There is only one solution. Will this minister seek an immediate injunction to halt all further work on Rafferty until all questions about the government's ability to act have been determined?

Hon. Robert de Cotret (Minister of the Environment): Mr. Speaker, I would like to repeat today what I said on Monday and Tuesday. I am under a court order to have a panel at work. I will comply with that order. I will meet