

*Oral Questions*

• (1450)

The second point on decommissioning and nuclear waste, that has not been done by AECB at offices such as that. It has always been done from the Ottawa office. It will be done from that office which is not different from what it was for Denison and Elliot Lake or any other decommissioning including places like Port Hope.

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**CANADIAN INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL  
PEACE AND SECURITY**

**Mrs. Beryl Gaffney (Nepean):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Secretary of State for External Affairs.

In the recent budget cuts, Canadians will lose an invaluable source of independent thought on foreign policy, the Canadian Institute for International Peace and Security. The finance minister says that the institute's mandate can be carried out by the Department of External Affairs.

I would like to ask the minister: How can the Department of External Affairs possibly carry out the work of the institute and still be able to maintain its independence?

**Hon. Barbara McDougall (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, as we were going through some of the things in our department that we felt were to some extent duplications of things that were going on, the Canadian Institute was one of them even though we recognize the high calibre of some of the work it has done.

First of all it will take some time to phase out the agency. As we do that, we will be discussing with them the kinds of things we can do inside the department and indeed the services we can buy from others as well. We did feel we did not need an entire permanent agency to do the kind of work it was doing.

**Mrs. Beryl Gaffney (Nepean):** Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is for the same minister.

Being as a new world order is emerging, the international community is in a state of flux and many areas of the world are embroiled in conflict. Canada's security is always a top priority. How can the government justify the

elimination of its only source of independent advice on foreign policy?

**Hon. Barbara McDougall (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, the institute is hardly our only source of independent advice. We do get advice from both inside the department and from a number of institutions in Canada and around the world.

We will continue to seek the broadest possible consultation in terms of developing our policies and the kinds of things that we should be doing within what is indeed, as the hon. member has said, quite a changed international environment.

I would hate to think that our capacity to develop foreign policy was based solely on one institute, because I do not think it is.

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**CHILD POVERTY**

**Mr. Chris Axworthy (Saskatoon—Clark's Crossing):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance.

Today an independent study of the government's proposed child benefit system points out that the benefits for all low income families will be reduced through inflation by 27 per cent over the next eight years. Over one million Canadian children are poor and will become even poorer with this government program.

Can the minister explain to the House how this honours the government's commitment to reduce child poverty by the year 2000, which it made in this House, and how it also honours Canada's international obligation to recognize the right of every child to an adequate standard of living?

[*Translation*]

**Hon. Monique Vézina (Minister of State (Employment and Immigration) and Minister of State (Seniors)):** Mr. Speaker, I think that it is important to repeat that the new benefit replaces a child benefit system that was already partly indexed. This means, I maintain, that with the new measure we brought in with the last budget, every parent who really needs help will come out ahead because we recognize, of course, the need to set up different models.