

S. O. 31

The government's economic policy is much more ludicrous than anything I could ever suggest. It is creating unemployment through high interest rates, a high dollar, free trade and the GST.

Why will members on the other side of the House not stop harping on one throw-away comment of mine and instead, pay some attention to the serious matters that confront Canadians.

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CANCER TREATMENT

Mrs. Beryl Gaffney (Nepean): Madam Speaker, I would like to bring to the attention of the House an issue that the Minister of National Health and Welfare is aware of and is doing nothing about.

Cancer patients require many forms of treatment and most should have this treatment within a two-week period. Some hospitals in Ontario have had to wait-list cancer patients beyond the two-week period. This situation is not acceptable.

The federal government has cut back in transfer payments for the provinces in the area of health care resulting in insufficient funding to our hospitals and cancer centres. It affects our hospitals that do not have enough radiology equipment nor enough technologists to run the equipment.

There are risks to the patients, to the caregivers, to the cancer centres, and to our health care system. I find it absolutely deplorable that consideration is being given by some centres to send patients into the U.S. for treatment, at what cost to our health care system and to the patient.

I ask the minister of health to immediately review these serious ramifications to his government's budget decisions. I have mentioned only one health care area. How many others are there?

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NATIONAL ACCESS AWARENESS WEEK

Mr. Lee Clark (Brandon—Souris): Madam Speaker, those of us who are fortunate often tend to forget that 13 per cent of Canadians in total, including 39 per cent of those who are 65 years of age or older, are disabled.

For this reason the establishment of June 1 to June 7, 1992 as National Access Awareness Week is exceedingly important, particularly in light of the fact that its purpose is to challenge all Canadians to create and support equal access which will enable persons with disabilities to participate fully in all aspects of life.

Whether it be a question of access to the workplace, to government offices, or to movie theatres, which can be a particular source of some difficulty, those with disabilities have rights which all too often have been ignored.

We have an obligation, both moral and otherwise, to ensure that this very basic need is met.

I congratulate those who are responsible for the implementation of National Access Awareness Week as they are doing their part to enhance national awareness on this important issue.

Madam Speaker, it is now up to the rest of us to ensure that concerns do indeed lead to action.

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TAMMY DE SILVA

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Winnipeg South Centre): Madam Speaker, I want to draw to the attention of the House the case of Mrs. Tammy De Silva, a disabled woman from Winnipeg, who was abducted in February, 1992 by five Americans, including her estranged husband and two Chicago police officers.

Charges are to be laid momentarily by the Winnipeg police department and a Canada-wide warrant is to be issued. But this action is not enough.

I urge the Minister of Justice and the Secretary of State for External Affairs to ensure that extradition charges will be laid immediately against these five individuals in order to protect the rights of Canadians at home.

Without a true effort to bring these individuals to answer charges in the Canadian courts, a signal will be sent to foreigners who violate our sovereignty. It will be open season on Canadians.

This government must not allow our sovereignty to be eroded. I ask it to defend the rights of Tammy De Silva and all Canadians.