

S.O. 21

we want South Africa to avoid a blood bath, we should use the full range of economic pressures, up to and including sanctions.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

* * *

SOCIAL SECURITY

ENTITLEMENT OF SENIOR CITIZENS

Mr. William C. Winegard (Guelph): Mr. Speaker, all Members of this House have a responsibility to the senior citizens in their ridings. We in the Government know—and so do members of the opposition Parties—that the Government has no intention of dismantling or removing the old age security.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Winegard: Let us stop the scare tactics which are not worthy of Members of this House. Let us, with one clear and loud voice, tell the people of our ridings that we will not let them down.

An Hon. Member: This is a plea for help.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Winegard: Mr. Speaker, the louder the bray, the bigger the donkey.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Winegard: Senior citizens will, as the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) has promised, receive their pensions and the security to which they are entitled. Let us do what we can to ensure that some joy, peace, and security are in the minds of all of our senior citizens during this holiday season.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

* * *

EMPLOYMENT

SUMMER JOBS NEEDED BY STUDENTS

Hon. Warren Allmand (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce-Lachine East): Mr. Speaker, on or about April 15 students will be out of university and ready for summer employment. Many of them are already looking for work, and a good many have been to our offices. They are concerned because the Government, which said that its first priority was jobs, has already cancelled the Summer Canada program which operated for many years.

When I asked the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) on December 5 when he would announce a new program to replace Summer Canada, he said that the Government was consulting and would announce something soon. It is now December 20, the House adjourns tomorrow, and we still have no news from the Government. In a few months' time students will require this employment to pay for next year's tuition and

other expenses. They and their prospective employers must know now what the Government's program will be.

The Government has said that it would keep the student employment offices and employment in the public sector, but what about the summer jobs which were always sponsored by Summer Canada in the voluntary sector? That program was not only important for students, it was also important for the many services which were provided by voluntary groups.

As it is traditional to announce the summer employment program before the Christmas adjournment, will the Prime Minister tell us today, or tomorrow, what the Government intends to do? Students want answers now, before it's too late.

* * *

[Translation]

SOCIAL SECURITY

CHILD TAX CREDIT

Mrs. Gabrielle Bertrand (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to set the record straight following a statement made by the Hon. Member for Winnipeg-Fort Garry (Mr. Axworthy) on Monday. The Hon. Member said that when the previous Government introduced the child tax credit in 1978, it did so without reducing other benefits for Canadian families.

Mr. Speaker, the truth of the matter is that at the same time, the previous Government modified benefit payments to Canadian families, but not to their advantage. Under the previous administration, the system of benefits for children was restructured as of January 1, 1979. Family allowance went from \$25.68 per month per child to \$20 per month. This is a reduction of 22 per cent. The Government also eliminated the \$50 tax rebate per child.

In fact, the child tax credit was financed by reducing family allowance payments and eliminating the child tax rebate.

Now that we are mentioning the possibility of again making changes in the way benefits are distributed within the system, Liberal Members find the idea unacceptable. Mr. Speaker, it is interesting to note how commitments that were acceptable to the Liberals become unacceptable when they are being considered and proposed by a Progressive Conservative Government.