

Canadians would welcome the creation of a parliamentary commissioner for the environment, and we seek your guidance and support, Mr. Speaker, to achieve such end.

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### THE BUDGET

#### REQUEST FOR END TO ATTACK ON MINISTER

**Mr. Greg Thompson (Carleton—Charlotte):** Mr. Speaker, Atlantic Canada is experiencing some very real difficulties which can only be dealt with at the national level through debate, intelligent discussion, and dialogue.

For more than one month the opposition Parties have launched into a vicious attack on the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson). This attack has nothing to do with principle and nothing to do with the facts. Members opposite simply want the Minister's head for purely political reasons.

Members of the Opposition were elected by their constituents to serve the people of Canada, to serve the House, and to work for the common good. By not doing this, they are wasting the time of the House and taxpayers' dollars. I urge Members opposite to quit playing partisan politics and get on with addressing the real questions facing the country.

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### THE BUDGET

#### FREEDOM OF THE PRESS—CRIMINAL PROSECUTION OF JOURNALIST

**Mr. Ian Waddell (Port Moody—Coquitlam):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to comment on the criminal charges against journalist Doug Small on the budget leak. As a former crown attorney my comments will be circumpect.

The charges were laid by the Ontario Provincial crown counsel who has a reputation for being independent and fair. The case, however, is unique. While all Canadians are equal and not special under the criminal law, under the Canadian Charter of Rights there is a guarantee of freedom of the press. In other countries, criminal prosecutions of journalists have put those countries on the long slippery slope toward less freedom for all and eventually tyranny.

### S. O. 31

I call upon the Minister of Justice (Mr. Lewis) and the Solicitor General of Canada (Mr. Blais) to reveal whether their Ministries had discussions with the crown attorney and whether, as I think they were obliged to do, they raised the implications of freedom of the press in this prosecution.

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### NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION

#### REDUCTION OF SHORT-RANGE NUCLEAR WEAPONS

**Mr. Ross Stevenson (Durham):** Mr. Speaker, dramatic proposals from the United States, supported by members of NATO, provide more optimism for disarmament. The United States and its NATO partners have made a positive and pro-active response to the Soviets on reduction of the number of troops and conventional equipment in Europe. Furthermore, the compromise within NATO on a position for reduction of short-range nuclear weapons was a major accomplishment.

Our Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) and Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Clark) have played an important role in achieving this compromise. As arms reductions occur, the necessity for verification and other confidence building measures become increasingly important. Canada has played a significant role in the research and development of various forms of verification. Peace built on trust and confidence, not nuclear deterrents, is the wish of all Canadians.

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### LIBERAL PARTY

#### P.E.I ELECTION RESULTS

**Mr. George Proud (Hillsborough):** Mr. Speaker, the federal Government received a clear message last night with the resounding victory of Premier Joe Ghiz and the Prince Edward Island Liberal Party. This victory comes directly on the heels of the election of four Liberal MPs last November.

For the past six months I have listened to comments from the Island media and defeated Conservative candidates who seem to think that Prince Edward Islanders made a mistake when they failed to elect a Conservative MP.

Islanders obviously do not feel that way, because last night they elected 30 Liberals to the 32-seat Legislature in a massive show of confidence in Premier Ghiz and his colleagues. Islanders have sent a clear message to