

S. O. 31

Has the Minister of Labour become a willing hatchet man for Treasury Board, or will it support a national centre whose programs save the lives of working men and women in this country?

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STUDENT LOANS PROGRAM

Mr. Howard McCurdy (Windsor—St. Clair): Mr. Speaker, the Canada Student Loans Program is in trouble. It needs change. The amounts available are stuck at 1984 levels, while tuition and other costs have increased dramatically, largely due to this government's policies.

Some universities have even started food banks for students. The provincial education ministers want change. They want the federal government to act now, as it must act, to permit consultation and finalization of a new program by the end of January. If not, changes will be delayed for yet another year. Meanwhile the government seeks in consultations across the country to convince Canadians that education is crucial to our future prosperity.

What better way to convince them to act. Even now, even after seven years of inaction, a new student loans program would at least be a start.

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VOLUNTEER SERVICE MEDAL

Mr. Felix Holtmann (Portage—Interlake): Mr. Speaker, the Canadian Volunteer Service Medal for Korea is not a medal of honour but is a service medal. It is being sent by mail to those veterans who apply for it and are qualified by their Korean service in the traditional way.

That is the way the service medals for the First World War and Second World War were sent. That is still the way the Department of Veterans Affairs sent replacement medals which fall within its jurisdiction, and that is the way the Office of the Governor General of Canada is sending the Canadian Volunteer Service Medal for Korea. That is also the method agreed to by the president of the Korean Veterans Association of Canada, as indicated in a recently released newsletter I hold here.

The Minister of Veterans Affairs has sent a letter to all, outlining procedures for arranging more formal

ceremonies. I suggest the member for Hillsborough refer to that letter. As well, the hon. member for Hillsborough has certainly been the critic for veterans affairs long enough to know medal application procedures.

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THE ENVIRONMENT

Hon. Chas. L. Caccia (Davenport): Mr. Speaker, yesterday the Minister of the Environment admitted that budgets and policies are not assessed for their environmental impact.

Government policy statements do contain the right buzzwords but they lack in substance. For instance, the Department of External Affairs just produced a paper on foreign policy. It reads well until the conclusion that Canada cannot afford to be a leader in the environment.

And why? Because of the false assumption by this government that the environment and the economy are separate. Because of this outdated thinking, Canada has steadily fallen behind in the development of efficient and competitive industrial and environmental technologies. Unfortunately this government still fails to understand and practise sustainable development.

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CROSS-BORDER SHOPPING

Mr. Girve Fretz (Erie): Mr. Speaker, I am impressed by the ingenuity of retail merchants in border towns who are finding inventive ways to keep local shoppers at home.

I have with me the first issue of a publication from the National Task Force on Cross-Border Shopping called *Cross-Border Bulletin*. This publication acknowledges that while cross-border shopping persists as a menacing threat to business, Canadians have already proven they can compete with and outperform their stiffest competition.

I want to share my pride in the merchants of Erie who are no strangers to American competition. In Port Colborne the Community Futures Program and the Community Business Network joined with the Chamber of Commerce and the Downtown Development Board to present a seminar entitled "Service Excellence" to 17 businesses as well as students from the business courses of the two local high schools.