

STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S. O. 21

[Translation]

SOCIAL SECURITY

SENIOR CITIZENS—ANNOUNCED CHANGES TO NEW HORIZONS PROGRAM—REQUEST THAT GOVERNMENT RETAIN STATUS QUO

Mr. Gilles Grondin (Saint-Maurice): Mr. Speaker, the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Mr. Epp) has sent to all Hon. Members last fall a notification of changes regarding the New Horizons Program for senior citizens.

I fail to understand how the Minister can conclude his message by indicating that these measures are intended to better recognize the senior citizens as full members of society, when he brings about changes restricting and limiting the scope of this program.

Indeed, these changes will have a very negative impact upon senior citizens groups. Their opportunities for recreational activities are being restricted because each group will now be limited to only one payment every five years in this regard. New membership conditions now stipulate that 70 per cent of the members must be retired for a group to be eligible to this program. Funds towards repairs and renovations are also being limited since, for instance, in order to have its expenses reimbursed a group must own the building.

After taking all this away from senior citizens, Mr. Speaker, the Minister dares claim that these changes are intended to help them.

That is unacceptable and that is why I call on the Minister to reinstate the *status quo* in this issue.

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[English]

WILDLIFE

WHOOPING CRANES—RESCUE FROM BRINK OF EXTINCTION

Mr. Dave Nickerson (Western Arctic): Mr. Speaker, in 1941 the migratory flock of whooping cranes had declined to an all-time low of 15. They were all but extinct.

Since that time co-operative efforts of the Canadian and American Government and private organizations have brought the species back from the brink of extinction to where they now number about 140. These rare birds breed in Wood Buffalo National Park near the town of Fort Smith, Northwest Territories. Last year 25 chicks were successfully hatched.

Probably no one deserves more credit for this success story than Mr. Ernie Kuyt, long time employee of the Canadian Wildlife Service of the Department of the Environment. Mr. Kuyt has devoted a lifetime to the study and care of the whooping crane.

S. O. 21

PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY

INCREASED DRUG PRICES

Mr. Dave Dingwall (Cape Breton—East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, the Government has once again betrayed the trust of the Canadian people.

Between the time the Government introduced Bill C-22 to the House of Commons and the day the Bill was passed, the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs (Mr. Andre) said no less than eight times that drug prices would not increase. Now, less than three months later, we see that prices have drastically increased on 1,099 different drugs. The sad thing about the situation, besides the fact that our seniors and less fortunate Canadians have to pay this greed money out of the multinationals, is the fact that the Government will not do anything to accept responsibility for this affair.

The Mulroney Cabinet caters to the wishes of these big drug companies at the expense of average Canadians. I can assure you, Mr. Speaker, that come election time the Canadian population will not cater their vote to the Government. The Government argued that it would trust the big drug companies, but the drug companies are not good corporate citizens. They are all greed mongers out to rob Canadians, and they are getting lots of assistance from the Government, the Conservative Government of Brian Mulroney.

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FISHERIES

OVERFISHING BY FRENCH FLEET OFF NEWFOUNDLAND SOUTH COAST

Mr. Jack Harris (St. John's East): Mr. Speaker, the Government continues to show its weakness in failing to prevent the French from overfishing in the disputed 3PS fishing zone off the south coast of Newfoundland. The French have now announced that not only will they not negotiate on the boundary question or put the matter before a court like a civilized nation but they are going to send in their ships to catch four times their historic entitlement.

The most recent affront by the French is the snubbing of Governor General Jeanne Sauvé, now on an official visit to Paris, by the Premier of France and the French Minister of Fisheries. This repeats the action of last summer when the Lieutenant Governor of Newfoundland, the former Member of Parliament for St. John's East, was refused entry to St. Pierre for his annual visit.

The situation is very critical and the only solution the Government has offered is the same ineffective measures it took last year. When will the Government realize that the French are not taking the Government seriously? It is long past the point when the Government should have acted on behalf of the fishermen on the south coast of Newfoundland