

S. O. 31

defined targets and schedules, supported by \$3 billion in new funding.

Other countries have developed similar plans, including the United Kingdom, France, Norway, Denmark, the Netherlands and Australia. Frankly, not one of these countries comes even close to Canada in terms of committed funding, targets and schedules, scope and the extent of public consultation and participation in the formulation process.

If the critics expended more of their energy in constructive pursuits such as becoming full partners in the green plan solution, the common goal of a healthier environment would be reached in less time than any of us have ever imagined.

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THALIDOMIDE VICTIMS

Mr. Rey Pagtakhan (Winnipeg North): Mr. Speaker, three victims of the drug thalidomide spoke before the Standing Committee on Health and Welfare this morning. The three, representing 72 others like them, asked for monthly assistance based on the severity of disability instead of equal lump sum payments irrespective of severity as chosen by this government.

After 30 years waiting for compensation, desperation has forced these people to bring their case to the United Nations Human Rights Committee. It shames me to say Canada is the only remaining country that has not yet come to the aid of its thalidomide victims despite their obvious need. Thirty per cent cannot find meaningful jobs, and another 30 per cent rely on their families for support. I and the member for London East ask the Minister of National Health and Welfare to grant the request of the 75 Canadian thalidomide victims who have waited so patiently for redress. Please meet with them soon for the sake of justice, or do they need to wait for the judgment of the United Nations?

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[*Translation*]

CHILD CARE

Mr. Jacques Tétreault (Laval-Centre): Mr. Speaker, on December 6, 1990, the minister Monique Landry

presided at the official opening in my riding of Laval-Centre of the first day care center made available in an office complex in Laval.

The "Génies en herbe G.L." center is an initiative of the engineering firm Gendron Lefebvre, with the support of Édifice G.L., the City of Laval and the Quebec child care services bureau.

Each year, this organization gets generous financial assistance from the government of Canada. The center accommodates 60 children, including 8 newborn, and there is an outdoor playground designed especially for children.

The location and layout of the center allow parents to come and see their child during the day. The community of Laval is grateful to the Gendron Lefebvre firm for this praiseworthy initiative.

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[*English*]

RURAL DIGNITY

Mr. Ray Funk (Prince Albert—Churchill River): Mr. Speaker, this is the fourth anniversary of the founding of Rural Dignity, a grass roots organization based on the principle that there are three great federal institutions which hold this country and rural communities together: the post office, the CBC and VIA Rail.

There are now thousands of rural Canadians, ably led by organizers like Cynthia Patterson and Barb Bonneau, who are fighting the cuts which threaten their communities and their way of life, like the closure and privatization of 5,200 rural post offices.

At one time the Prime Minister said that Canada is a country of small towns and big dreams. The last six years of population loss, poverty, privatization and lost services have been more like one big nightmare for rural Canadians. Grass roots movements like Rural Dignity Canada prove that rural Canadians are not going to stand by and watch the government gut their communities and their way of life.

There is a warning in this for all government members from rural constituencies; they had better pay attention to what their rural constituents are saying or face the consequences in the next election.