

S. O. 31

[English]

I would like to complete my remarks by acknowledging again the support and hard work of the people of the Tungavik Federation of Nunavut and the Inuit Tapirisat of Canada, as well the countless number of people who have had to endure a lot of travel time or being away from their families. They spent a lot of time not quite knowing what was going to happen next but they always had the intent to get the best deal for the Inuit of Nunavut.

With that I am very confident that the Inuit of Nunavut have embarked on a future that will be beneficial not only to the Inuit but to the people of Canada.

Mr. Skelly (Comox—Alberni): Madam Speaker, a point of order. You will note there is only about three minutes remaining until Question Period.

It is very difficult to put a speech forward in that period of time. I wonder if the House would consider suspending debate for three minutes so that we can go through Question Period and then I can make my presentation.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Madam Deputy Speaker: Does the House agree that I should suspend the House until 11 a.m.?

Some hon. members: Agreed.

Madam Deputy Speaker: A very short suspension.

The sitting of the House was suspended at 10.57 a.m.

SITTING RESUMED

The House resumed at 11 a.m.

Madam Deputy Speaker: The House will now proceed to Statements by Members pursuant to Standing Order 31.

STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S. O. 31

[English]

MEDICARE

Mr. Howard Crosby (Halifax West): Madam Speaker, is medicare in serious trouble in Canada? If it is then

sacrificing physicians, especially young doctors, will not solve the problems.

Ontario's NDP government proposes to reduce payments to entry physicians to a level that will drive them out of the province and very probably out of the country. Even worse, there could be a chain reaction affecting other provinces.

An enormous public investment is made in every medical school graduate. The national benefit is a medical profession that is second to none in the world and the heart of Canadian medicare. If we allow government policy to undermine entry physicians, we will lose a whole generation of the best and brightest among young Canadians, a group that includes the future Bantings, Bests and Penfields.

I urge the minister of health to intervene, not just to aid young physicians but to preserve a Canadian medical service that has taken more than a century to establish and develop.

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HUMAN RIGHTS

Mrs. Beryl Gaffney (Nepean): Madam Speaker, four years ago today the world watched in horror as Chinese government troops opened fire on thousands of democracy campaigners in Tiananmen Square. Yet four short years later the present Canadian government seems to be indicating that it has forgotten the atrocities.

Recently the vice-premier of China, who is acting premier and one of the highest ranking members of the Chinese government, was invited to Canada not by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, who was frozen out of the meetings, but by the Minister for International Trade. Incredibly, in his speech welcoming the vice-premier, the minister of trade never once mentioned human rights. This is typical of the importance accorded human rights by this government which sees human rights as a minor irritant.