

S. O. 21

development contracts, which represent less than 10 per cent of federal spending on research and development.

Mr. Speaker, this is a gross misrepresentation of the facts. I want to give the House the figures for all *extra muros* expenditures on research and development. According to Statistics Canada, in 1984-85, the latest year for which complete statistics are available, Quebec received 27 per cent, Ontario 32 per cent and British Columbia 12 per cent, which is about in proportion to the population of these provinces. This distribution of federal spending on research and development is fair by any standard.

Mr. Speaker, would you not agree that it is necessary to correct these distortions here in the House and to point out the kind of injustice being perpetrated against this country by the well-intentioned members of the fourth estate?

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HOUSING**PRINCIPAL CLIENTELE OF SOCIAL HOUSING—NEED FOR GOVERNMENT ACTION**

Mrs. Lucie Pépin (Outremont): Mr. Speaker, 1987 is the year of shelter for the homeless. We are told that single-parent families headed by women, women who are on their own, are the largest group seeking subsidized housing in Canada. The latest changes introduced by the Government with respect to subsidized housing do not in any way meet the needs of these women. In fact, it has been made even more difficult for women to gain access to low cost housing because the maximum allowable income to be eligible for this kind of housing is still set far too low.

In addition to the financial aspect, housing is a special problem for women in certain groups such as native people, immigrants, the handicapped, single mothers, teenage mothers, victims of abuse, and of course the homeless.

We think it is intolerable that 52 per cent of the population of Canada should be faced with this kind of problem in a country where adequate housing is not a privilege but a right.

I therefore want to ask the Government to correct this deplorable situation as soon as possible.

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[English]

HISTORIC EVENTS**SEVENTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF BATTLE OF VIMY RIDGE**

Mr. Reginald Stackhouse (Scarborough West): Mr. Speaker, April 9, 1987, is the seventieth anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge. Eloquent testimony to it was given in

the House on April 3. However, it should be referred to in the record of our proceedings on the anniversary date itself.

Many through the years since 1917 have seen this battlefield as the birthplace of Canada's national consciousness. For the first time persons could be conscious of being Canadians first, before being British or French or any other ancestry.

● (1405)

Of the 600,000 who served Canada in World War I only 14,000 now survive. But those men and women should know that this House remembers what they did to advance Canada from colony to nation.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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REFUGEES**TRANSIT VISA ORDER—EFFECT ON CHILEANS IN ARGENTINA**

Mr. Dan Heap (Spadina): Mr. Speaker, the Government has taken a strange course of action against Chileans fleeing the oppression of General Pinochet. On February 20 a transit visa order with no grace period as allowed in all previous cases was aimed specifically against Chileans, by name. That weekend a planeload of Chileans was stopped in Buenos Aires and the consul who approached them told them that they were not refugees but just economic migrants, without examining their case.

Since then the Minister of Employment and Immigration (Mr. Bouchard) and the Minister of State for Immigration (Mr. Weiner) have repeated again and again that they are all economic migrants, even though they were forced to make two exceptions. They have ignored the advice of the United Nations' Miss Herrera. They have ignored the advice of a Montreal lawyer experienced in these matters who went there to examine 34 of the claimants. They were simply told to send this information to the same consul who told them in the first place, without examination, that they were only economic migrants.

We read in *The Globe and Mail* that the Minister has no control over his visa officer except moral suasion. In other words, the Minister is now covering up for the anti-Chilean refugee bias of his consul in Buenos Aires.

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[Translation]

LIBERAL PARTY**LEADER'S POSITION**

Mr. Gabriel Fontaine (Lévis): Mr. Speaker, at the end of a two-day caucus on political organization, the Leader of the