

S. O. 31

Canadians. Today we have the devastating cut in co-operative housing units.

Last year only 60 per cent of the promised 5,000 units were reached. This year it will be just 1,708 units or 34 per cent of the promise. This cut also means that the co-operative housing and rental RRAP organizations which provide valuable resources to individual co-ops and rental organizations will be permanently crippled.

I know the Minister is now having emergency meetings with groups such as the Co-operative Housing Foundation and the Canadian Housing Renewal Association to try and salvage some crumbs from the once promising social housing program in Canada.

I call upon the Minister of Housing who continuously championed the cause of affordable housing while a back-bencher to restore these programs and not become the Minister who opted out of the provision of social housing in Canada.

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[Translation]

ENERGY

GAS PRICE INCREASES IN QUEBEC

Mr. Vincent Della Noce (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of National Revenue): Mr. Speaker, for some weeks, many Québécois have told me they are unhappy with the successive gasoline price increases in Québec. Prices at the pump have gone up by more than 3 cents a litre.

I have consulted with retailers and wholesalers in Québec and the complaints seem to be serious. Our inquiries show that the oil companies, which had behaved so well over the last four years, are once again recalcitrant.

A few days ago, the Québec gasoline price inspection and information office (BIPE), at the request of my colleague, (Québec) Energy Minister Ciaccia, published a special bulletin showing conclusively that Québec drivers have been hit with three successive gasoline price increases. I would like to point out to Québécois that the increases ordered by Shell in March and by Ultramar in April seem once again to prove that these companies have raised prices without waiting the required 60 to 90 days.

So as a result, in a seven-week period, over \$14 million has gone to boost oil company profits, to the detriment of consumers, retailers and independent wholesalers.

Mr. Speaker, the Québec Energy Minister—
• (1110)

[English]

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I regret to interrupt the Hon. Member but his time has expired.

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THE ECONOMY

TELEVISION COMMERCIALS RESPECTING THE DEFICIT

Mr. John Harvard (Winnipeg—St. James): Mr. Speaker, while this Government slashes spending on unemployment insurance, cuts funding for VIA Rail, closes military bases and reduces regional development programs, it continues to waste millions of dollars on television commercials promoting its cuts on the backs of those who can least afford the burden.

The Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney), on his current visit to the U.S., has taken along an entourage of no fewer than 120 persons while many line up at food banks. Recently the Government has spent \$35,000 in renovations to the offices of the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Bouchard) at a time when many Canadians have difficulty providing basic shelter for their families. Yet this same Government has spent \$2.7 million to, as the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson) puts it, educate Canadians on the need to cut the deficit. Each time the commercial runs, thousands of dollars are taken away from those in need.

These are only a few examples of the hypocrisy of this Government which on one hand expects ordinary Canadians to shoulder the burden of deficit reduction while it continues to spend millions of dollars unnecessarily. Members opposite ought to be ashamed of themselves.

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[Translation]

ACID RAIN

AWARENESS OF AMERICAN POPULATION

Mrs. Suzanne Duplessis (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of State (Science and Technology)): Mr. Speaker, Prime Minister Mulroney recognizes that the acid rain which is spoiling our forests and our lakes is an extremely important concern for the future of Canada. Our Prime Minister is now a world leader with the protocol signed in Montreal to protect the ozone layer and all the efforts he has made in various countries.