

## HOUSE OF COMMONS

Wednesday, February 21, 1990

The House met at 2 p.m.

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*Prayers*

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### STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S. O. 31

[English]

#### THE BUDGET

**Mr. Ken James (Sarnia—Lambton):** Mr. Speaker, yesterday's budget really reaffirms to all members of the House our government's unabridged commitment to building a strong economic future for Canada.

As part of this vision, Canada requires a dynamic and flexible economy, one responsive to the many new challenges and opportunities fostered by an intensely competitive and restructured global market-place.

Central to this economic foundation is a highly skilled and flexible labour force. We as a nation depend on our international trade. To do that, we must invest in our human resources and meet the demands of economic and technological change.

In a leadership role the new Labour Force Development Strategy clearly demonstrates our government's commitment to do just that. It reinforces private sector training and provides significant additional funds to our unemployed, social assistance recipients and displaced older workers.

I believe that this labour strategy, coupled with the unemployment insurance reforms, as well as the economic safety net we have developed, strongly demonstrates a commitment by the government to all Canadians to develop a better framework for both them and our economy to adjust to change and to new prosperity for Canada.

#### THE BUDGET

**Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Winnipeg South Centre):** Mr. Speaker, among the many victims of yesterday's budget was a once proud, but now embattled entity called Canada.

Over the years we have seen the independence and sovereignty of our country whittled away by the continentalist philosophy of the present government.

Yesterday, this Americanization of Canada took giant strides forward with the proposed sale of both Petro-Canada and Telesat. The sale of these Crown corporations eliminates the presence of a public interest in the direction and future of this country. It eliminates the opportunity to maintain Canadian ownership and control over vital resources. It eliminates the opportunity for Canadians to plan for their future alternate energy and national communications policies.

Let us remember the spirit of 1979 when the Canadian people rose up and fought the plans by a Conservative government to get rid of Petro-Canada. Let us have the spirit of 1979 re-enacted today so that Canadians will once again fight for the right to stay free and independent.

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#### THE BUDGET

**Ms. Margaret Mitchell (Vancouver East):** The budget decision to axe construction of the *Polar 8* ice-breaker is a betrayal of British Columbians and the future of the north. Three years ago the government signed an agreement committing itself to a B.C. contract while frigate contracts went to Quebec.

Axing the *Polar 8* means a loss of over 1,000 direct jobs in Vancouver and Victoria, as well as many spin-off jobs. It means the end of our shipbuilding industry in B.C.

A *Polar 8* class ice-breaker would have been much more than a proclamation of our sovereignty in the Arctic. It is essential for northern development, Arctic