

*S.O. 21*

indifference. We see the same callousness and social programs that took years to win being slashed. Once again the jobless are blamed for their lack of work and the poor for their poverty.”

We join the trekkers in calling on this Conservative Government to make employment its first priority. It is especially shocking that these same trekkers and their generation are having pensions cut by this Government through reduced indexation. We ask the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) to apologize to these trekkers, and to make sure that the present generation of young people have work with decent wages.

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### CANADIAN RADIO-TELEVISION AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

#### RESTRICTIONS ON RADIO STATION LICENCES

**Mr. Stan Darling (Parry Sound-Muskoka):** Mr. Speaker, I rise today in the interest of preserving freedom of the press and other media. The Radio and Television News Directors Association (central Canada), met in my riding on the weekend and passed a resolution opposing unfair regulations sought by the CRTC prior to granting licences for radio stations in Windsor and Montreal.

Members of the Association say the CRTC is intimidating those seeking licences by accepting a minimum of 45 per cent Canadian content in news and editorial broadcasting. Such constraints would never be placed on newspapers and magazines, and it is completely unfair to expect the electronic media to comply.

This governmental intrusion into the newsrooms of Canada virtually destroys the mandate of our news gatherers. The preservation of the Canadian identity is all well and good, but the availability of world news should never be purposely omitted.

A promise of performance including Canadian news content percentages should never be offered by a radio station, nor should it be accepted by the CRTC. All other facets of broadcasting are regulated by the all-powerful CRTC and it must not be given the authority to regulate news broadcasts. I believe existing provisos in Windsor and Montreal should be lifted immediately, and no further suggestion of this kind should be offered or accepted in the future.

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### THE ADMINISTRATION

#### DELIVERY ON ELECTION PROMISES

**Mrs. Pauline Browes (Scarborough Centre):** Mr. Speaker, the Progressive Conservative Government has kept its promises to Canadians. We promised to reduce government waste and control federal spending. We have delivered.

Since September 4 over \$4 billion has been cut from government spending, pensions for Members and Senators have been reduced, and 15,000 civil service jobs will be eliminated by 1990.

We promised to reduce the huge national deficit, and we have delivered. Because of the measures taken last fall and in the recent Budget, the deficit will be reduced by \$20 billion over the next five years. We promised fair and just social programs, and again we have delivered.

We have increased the child tax credit, increased pensions for veterans, and extended the Spouse's Allowance Program.

Above all, we promised Canadians jobs, and we have delivered in a very big way. Since the election over 270,000 jobs have been created, and business confidence is booming.

The Government has honoured its commitment to Canadians. We have strengthened the economy, improved government efficiency, and reduced unemployment. Because of the actions and policies of the Government, Canada is working again.

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### DISASTERS

#### OCEAN RANGER—COMPANY'S PROFITS FROM INSURANCE

**Mr. George Baker (Gander-Twillingate):** Mr. Speaker, in the just released 1984 annual report of the U.S. company, Ocean Drilling and Exploration Company Ltd., it states that ODECO made a profit of \$45 million from the sinking of the *Ocean Ranger*.

The rig was valued at \$33 million but was insured in such a way that the company realized a \$45 million profit, which was listed as profits per common share in its annual report. The company also bragged that only \$16 million of a \$200 million liability insurance policy was paid out in settlements. Eighty-four lives were lost, and the company made a \$45 million profit, Mr. Speaker.

The settlements to surviving family members also show the same scandalous tone. The settlements to U.S. families, on average, was double the settlements to Newfoundland families. The offers made by the company, for example, to families of single men who died were \$150,000 if they were American, and \$75,000 if they were Canadian.

A cloud of scandal and lack of concern now hangs over this whole affair. The U.S. company and big business shareholders made a \$45 million profit and, as far as the offers and settlements were concerned, it depended upon which country a person was from as to what he or she got. The federal Government and the provincial Government of Newfoundland should investigate this matter on an urgent basis. They should also tell offshore workers why the evacuation procedures have not changed since the sinking—

**Mr. Speaker:** I must advise the Hon. Member that his 90 seconds have expired. The Hon. Member for Essex-Windsor (Mr. Langdon).