

S.O. 21

CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS

GOOD WORK OF OTTAWA SNOWSUIT FUND

Mr. G. M. Gurbin (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of the Environment): Mr. Speaker, I rise today to draw to the attention of the House a most worthy and charitable cause, the Snowsuit Fund. This is a charity program sponsored by businessmen and concerned citizens in the Ottawa area. It was established to help provide children in eastern Ontario with warm winter clothing. The group has targeted 3,000 needy children this year, and it has a goal of raising \$75,000 to buy the necessary snowsuits. The Air Force is kindly providing the transportation of snowsuits from Winnipeg, where they are made, to Ottawa.

The Snowsuit Fund has an office conveniently located at 90 Sparks Street, the Queen Street entrance. From the office at 90 Sparks Street this little known effort has in past years been successful in providing a warmer winter and happier holiday to children throughout the area, and it is a commendable example of Canadians helping Canadians to have a very Merry Christmas.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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SOCIAL SECURITY

CRITICISM OF GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Alfonso Gagliano (Saint-Léonard-Anjou): Mr. Speaker, referring to social programs, the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson) said: "Canadians are not given credit for their intelligence on these issues". The Liberals know Canadians are intelligent and should be included in the debate on social programs. If the Conservatives truly believed in the wisdom and judgment of Canadians they would have opened the debate over universality and social programs during the election, when voters could really contribute. The Canadian public can best make its voice heard on the issue of social programs if it is debated prior to and during an election campaign.

The Conservatives were afraid of revealing their true position to Canadians. As the present Minister of Justice (Mr. Crosbie) said during the election campaign: "If the Tories said what they would do if elected, they would never be elected". The present Minister of Finance did not trust the Canadian public either, as he said in his recent Canadian Press interview that if the Tory position on social programs had been announced during the election campaign, the Canadian people would have misunderstood them. It is obvious the Government does not believe in open debate. It did not believe in it during the campaign, and it does not believe in it now.

The Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) told reporters during the campaign that "the Conservatives had to be prudent in putting out positions". If the Prime Minister truly believed in Canadians, and in open and honest debate on social policy, he would have had the courage to come clean about his true

position on social programs during the election campaign, and he would agree right now to a debate on social programs.

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[Translation]

SOCIAL SECURITY

SOLIDARITY OF PEOPLE'S REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. Clément M. Côté (Lac-Saint-Jean): Mr. Speaker, on the last day of the session before the Christmas holidays, I want to appeal to the intellectual honesty of both opposition parties and ask them to stop their efforts, here in the House, at feeding this climate of insecurity among the neediest in our society.

They know perfectly well that a government would never dare take away vested rights, and they also know perfectly well that the present Government does not intend to penalize Canadians in need.

If they had any self-respect and any respect for their fellow Canadians, they would stop their politics of petulance and prepare for the holidays in an atmosphere of peace and serenity, making it clear to the rest of the country that they intend to work in good faith with the present Government to maximize existing programs.

More solidarity among Canada's elected representatives would be a more effective response to the needs of Canadians and give them a Christmas free of worry, and the hope that 1985 will bring them a step closer to a better future.

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● (1110)

[English]

DISARMAMENT

NON-PARTICIPATION IN ARMS RACE ADVOCATED

Mr. Bill Blaikie (Winnipeg-Birds Hill): Mr. Speaker, as we prepare to leave this place and return to our homes to celebrate with family and friends the birth of the Prince of Peace, let us reject the satisfaction that the Minister of Defence (Mr. Coates) seemed to take in Winnipeg at the small numbers outside a Winnipeg hotel protesting the Pentagon tour. Instead, we should reflect on why it is that those who freely devote time to trying to call our attention to the insanity of the nuclear arms race are put down, despised, and sometimes arrested, while at the same time those who are paid well to prepare for the death of our planet and its inhabitants are doing nothing illegal, and are even held in high regard for the work they do in spending in one day what the United Nations needs between now and the year 2000 to provide clean water for everyone, and probably will not get.

Plans to fight and win a nuclear war, Mr. Speaker, are so completely contrary to the vision of the angels and the she-