

*S. O. 31*

If we continue on our present course, life as we know it will not survive the 21st century.

I advise the members opposite to sit up and take heed of that sage prediction.

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**CHILDREN**

**Mrs. Louise Feltham (Wild Rose):** Mr. Speaker, on May 4, 1992 the Minister of National Health and Welfare announced the *Brighter Futures* program, a five-year \$2.6 billion initiative to address the conditions of risk that threaten the health and well-being of children.

The new child tax benefit, which represents an increase of \$2.1 billion in federal government assistance to families over the next five years, began in January 1993.

Negotiations are under way with provincial and territorial governments to expand prevention, intervention and health promotion efforts for children and their families in high-risk communities.

A memorandum of understanding has already been signed in Nova Scotia and we expect that agreements will be signed in all provinces in the near future.

Close to 30 other programs which deal with such issues as childhood cancer control, missing children, healthy babies and strengthening families have and will continue to address the needs of Canadian families with children.

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**NEWFOUNDLAND ELECTION**

**Hon. Roger C. Simmons (Burin—St. George's):** Mr. Speaker, the morning after feels mighty good, if one is a Liberal.

Yesterday's election victory is a great tribute to Clyde Wells' leadership and to his team, including the thousands of Liberal workers who delivered the vote. It speaks volumes for voter horse sense, which chose competence over bungling, vision over fuzziness and realism over fantasy.

There was plenty of fantasy. The NDP dreamed aloud about getting 30 seats. It got one.

The Tories promised gain without pain. Our own federal minister of fisheries did his bit by having one of

the candidates announce a fisheries aid project before it was ready and by issuing a gag order to his officials to prevent them from telling the truth about phantom wharf projects.

Newfoundlanders did not swallow the Tory bait. Canadian voters will not swallow the Tory bait. One down and one to go.

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**FOOD BANKS**

**Ms. Barbara Greene (Don Valley North):** Mr. Speaker, I have never said that people abuse food banks or that people who use food banks are free-loaders. I have never attacked food bank employees or volunteers.

I agree with food banks that we should eliminate the need for food banks. They are humiliating and degrading to some people and inaccessible to others, such as the disabled, seniors and women with small children. They are a poor way to deliver basic social services.

In those provinces where welfare is insufficient to cover basic needs it should be increased. Where welfare is sufficient the emphasis should be on programs that help people to help themselves.

A bag of food lasts a day. Learning how to cook and shop thriftily and eat more nutritionally can bestow a lifetime of savings and better health.

The subcommittee on poverty is considering recommending new poverty measures that will help us to evaluate whether welfare is adequate and whether government programs and economic changes are helping or hurting the poor.

It is my hope that one of the uses of these measures will be to focus attention on those families in Canada who must depend on charity to meet basic needs.

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**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CULTURAL EDUCATION CENTRES**

**Mr. Len Taylor (The Battlefords—Meadow Lake):** Mr. Speaker, recent federal government cuts in spending are threatening the very existence of important First Nations programs like those that deal with culture.