

S.O. 31

Canadians are learning, the Tories do not deserve this mandate.

Mr. Blackburn (Brant): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Hon. Member for Hamilton Mountain (Ms. Phinney). It has to do with this very, very important area of universality which is pretty basic to the social programs in this country. The Conservative Government will argue that the claw-back of old age security is not an assault on universality. But, in fact, it is.

Mr. Dick: You are wrong.

Mr. Blackburn (Brant): I do not think there is any doubt that once the Government introduces legislation in a Budget allowing a total claw-back of a social service—

Mr. Dick: From the rich.

Mr. Blackburn (Brant): —then you have, in fact, the termination of the application of universality.

Mr. Dick: No, they all get a cheque.

Mr. Blackburn (Brant): It may be \$50,000 now but the Finance Minister may decide next year he will reduce that amount to \$40,000 or \$30,000 or \$25,000. Then the old age security becomes a government hand-out or a social welfare payment to the elderly who are retired. That is then the end of universality.

Mr. Dick: Is this a question?

Mr. Blackburn (Brant): The question I want to put to the Hon. Member for Hamilton Mountain—and I thank her for her maiden speech if it was her maiden speech. It was her first speech I have listened to in this House. I congratulate her on that and on her election. I want to know whether or not her Party would restore full universality if they were elected at the next election.

Ms. Phinney: Mr. Speaker, universality is the basic right of all Canadians. At what point will it stop? The Government is saying now \$50,000. Next year that amount may be \$40,000 and the next year \$30,000. It is a basic right of every Canadian to receive their pension and their family allowance.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Questions and comments are now terminated. Debate. The Hon. Member for Fredericton (Mr. Bird) will be the first speaker at three o'clock.

It being one o'clock I do now leave the chair until 2 p.m.

At 12.59 p.m. the House took recess.

AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 2 p.m.

STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S.O. 31

[English]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

PLO MEMBERSHIP IN WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

Mr. Bill Attewell (Markham): Mr. Speaker, the 166-member assembly, the World Health Organization's governing body, began its annual two-week session yesterday. The organization may be taking a very important but divisive vote today. The vote is whether or not to grant full membership to the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Full membership in WHO would automatically allow the PLO to join several other agencies such as the UN Conference on Trade and Development. The United States, which contributes 25 per cent of WHO's yearly budget of \$73.8 million, is expected to vote against the PLO because it is not a legitimate state in control of a territory, borders or a government. Admittance to full membership is therefore both undeserved and premature. I am pleased to say that for the same reasons, Canada will also be voting against any move to grant full membership to the PLO.

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ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

DETROIT GARBAGE INCINERATOR

Mr. Rex Crawford (Kent): Mr. Speaker, something is rotten in the State of Michigan. The Detroit garbage incinerator will be completed this month without state-of-the-art pollution controls. The Government has not even lifted a finger to stop or to delay the world's largest incinerator.

This garbage-burning monster is only three miles from the Canadian border but the impact area extends well into Ontario. Sailing in the breeze every year will be sulphur oxides, hydrogen chlorides, arsenic, chromium, mercury, dioxins and furans which could be reduced by imposing the necessary controls. The incinerator will burn 2,000 tonnes of trash each and every day.