

S. O. 31

POVERTY

Ms. Joy Langan (Mission—Coquitlam): Mr. Speaker, in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, a spokesperson for the police force last weekend stated that people on social assistance should be forced to practice birth control because their “limited genetic pool” results in welfare breeding welfare.

From one end of this country to the other, Canadians living in poverty are under attack.

From opinion leaders and authority figures we hear that it is the poor who are to blame for their poverty. We hear that crime, drug and alcohol abuse, and family violence are the fault of the poor. Now we are hearing that to be poor means that you are to be denied the comfort, the support and the love of a family.

To be poor means to be stripped of your dignity and treated differently. It means to be treated by some Orwellian notion of population control.

[Translation]

Yesterday in Montreal, 3,500 people demonstrated against poverty. At Point St. Charles and Saint-Henri, nearly one-third of the population lives in poverty. Unfortunately, this kind of situation is spreading across the country.

[English]

These towns are at Third World levels. We need action from this government and we need it now.

* * *

• (1410)

[Translation]

HYDRO-QUEBEC

Mr. Guy Saint-Julien (Abitibi): Mr. Speaker, my attention was drawn to an article: “GST reduces Hydro’s expenses, but consumers will not benefit”, that appeared today in *La Presse*.

According to several of accounting experts, Hydro-Quebec deliberately neglected to subtract from its projections the cost reduction that will take place next year when the federal sales tax is abolished.

In its draft development plan, Hydro-Quebec established its cost projections as though there would be no federal tax reform next year. Furthermore, Hydro-Quebec neglected to inform consumers of the amount it will save in federal tax.

Mr. Speaker, although when the new tax becomes effective, the old tax will automatically disappear, it seems like Hydro-Quebec residential customers will have to pay both the old and new tax.

* * *

ALCAN

Mr. Jean-Pierre Blackburn (Jonquière): Mr. Speaker, at their shareholders’ meeting, Alcan management again said no to Jonquière about installing electrostatic precipitators for the Soderberg cell rooms.

Mr. Speaker, I fail to understand why Alcan is treating the community of Jonquière like this. How can they close the Soderberg cell rooms, bring in bulldozers and make a nice lawn, without having any plans for a replacement project for Jonquière?

Building new factories in Laterrière, Alma and possibly Shawinigan is all very well, but what are you doing for Jonquière?

Mr. Speaker, let me direct a few words to these authorities. I am sorry but it is your responsibility to provide a replacement factory or some substantial project for the Jonquière area.

You are supposed to make the decisions, but it makes no sense to invest all around Jonquière, and ignore Jonquière itself! As a result, property values in this town will go down substantially and many jobs will be lost.

Through me, the people of Jonquière ask you to revise your investment plan to include Jonquière.

* * *

[English]

AGRICULTURE

Hon. Ralph Ferguson (Lambton—Middlesex): Mr. Speaker, I ask the House to reflect for a moment on the words of the member from Lisgar—Marquette who, during a supply debate on his own motion in 1984, called upon the government of the day to resist the downward adjustment of initial payments for western grain.