

S. O. 31

Ms. Langan: I am sure that the minister across the way who wants to interject will have an opportunity to speak to this too if he so wishes. The clawback will move our pension system closer to that of the U.S. where workers are covered by contributory pensions like RCPP and QPP or by means-tested programs like our Guaranteed Income Supplement, but not by a universal pension program like our Old Age Security. No pension exists in the United States, as a right of citizenship, for those over the age of 65.

It has been the finance minister's mission to shatter the universality barrier and once that principle is gone it will be a very simple matter to refine the clawback even further and make the programs more and more selective by taxing back higher and higher levels of benefits.

This clawback requires that some fundamental questions be asked. Why should an individual be entitled to receive \$100,000 in capital gains, tax free, but lose the \$4,000 he or she gets in Old Age Security simply because it was paid as a universal social benefit?

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): It being 11 a.m., pursuant to Standing Order 35, the House will now proceed to Statements by Members Pursuant to Standing Order 31.

The member will have three minutes remaining for debate when the bill is next called.

STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S. O. 31

[English]

THE LATE ANDREI SAKHAROV

Hon. David MacDonald (Rosedale): Mr. Speaker, Canadians and human rights activists around the world will mourn the passing of Mr. Andrei Sakharov. We will remember that more than 20 years ago Sakharov led that early fragile movement within the Soviet Union on behalf of human rights and international peace.

Sakharov was an individual who gave true meaning to the words of "courage" and "heart" and was concerned with his fellow men and women everywhere.

Sakharov, even in the last days of his existence, was challenging the present regime in the Soviet Union to move toward more progressive, open and democratic institutions. During his lifetime he challenged four separate Soviet institutions and in 1975 received the Nobel Peace Prize.

We mourn his passing. We recognize his great heart and his contribution to human rights world-wide.

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THE LATE ANDREI SAKHAROV

Mr. Rey Pagtakhan (Winnipeg North): Mr. Speaker, I too was deeply aggrieved to hear that Soviet human rights activist Andrei Sakharov died of a heart attack last night.

Mr. Sakharov, correctly called "the conscience of the Soviet Union", was recently elected to the Congress of the Peoples' Deputies and was working on constitutional reform of the Soviet political system when he died.

Mr. Sakharov in a real sense was a man of beautiful contrast. He built his eminence as a Soviet physicist who contributed to the development of the Soviet hydrogen bomb, but he did not allow that that tool of destruction should continue to be, for he later won a Nobel Peace Prize in 1975 for his advocacy of atomic disarmament, U.S.-Soviet co-operation in solving world problems and intellectual freedom in the U.S.S.R.

He was arrested in 1980 and sentenced to internal exile for his public opposition to Soviet foreign policies and for the Soviet government's suppression of dissidents and human rights activists. Later he was released. Despite personal persecution and exile, Mr. Sakharov worked tirelessly to promote the human rights issue in the Soviet Union and, indeed, the world over.

He will be remembered for his courage, his honourable principles and his selfless devotion toward peace. He died, but his mission to promote international respect for human rights as a guarantee of world peace will continue to live. We mourn his death. We are the beneficiaries of his mission.