

this report, to seize the golden opportunity and the need for fiscal restraint present to us and therefore respond with a national transportation strategy design for the next century.

From a southern Ontario perspective, we have Canada's busiest airport in Toronto, the most congested highways in the nation, and the most heavily used rail and bus services in Canada.

Whatever the Government's options on VIA within the vital corridor from Windsor to Quebec City, I urge the Government to study them, not in isolation of rail service only, but within an integrated transportation strategy of rail, air, car and bus traffic.

While considering this strategy I implore the Government to develop it in consultation with the provinces and in a manner that is in harmony with sound environmental considerations for the future.

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## SOCIAL PROGRAMS

### IMPACT OF CUTS IN NOVA SCOTIA

**Ms. Mary Clancy (Halifax):** Mr. Speaker, to be poor and unemployed in the City of Halifax is now going to be tougher than ever. Due to changes in cost sharing agreements the Halifax city Government has its back to the wall.

Cuts in social assistance are being forced that will create hardship not seen in our city since the terrible days of R. B. Bennett—\$50 less per month in the shelter allowance alone. All this before the effects of the Government's ill-conceived, all-out attack on Atlantic Canadians through its pernicious Budget are truly felt.

The Nova Scotia Nutrition Council says that the children on social assistance do not receive proper nutrition in our province. They cannot because social assistance does not pay enough to provide it. The situation is now critical.

I call on the federal Government to reverse its search and destroy policy in the Atlantic region. Cuts to UI, to EPF, to ERDAs, closures of bases and fish plants will strain our municipalities beyond their endurance.

Tories, provincial and federal, must stop this wholesale slaughter of our social service safety net.

S. O. 31

[Translation]

## HOUSE OF COMMONS

### THE MEMBER FOR LÉVIS—ALLEGATIONS OF FRAUD

**Mr. Howard McCurdy (Windsor—Lake St. Clair):** Mr. Speaker, we socialists on the other side of the House were shocked and appalled when we read in the papers this morning that the Hon. Member for Lévis (Mr. Fontaine) was being investigated by the police following allegations of abuse of public funds. The Hon. Member for Lévis has played a very important role in our lives as socialists. When we were plagued by self-doubt and thought that the Government no longer took us seriously, he was always there to remind us that nothing could be further from the truth. We knew he was speaking in affectionate terms when he accused us of being financed by the unions, and we appreciated the kindness and courtesy of his comments. Well, Mr. Speaker, we New Democrats have always kept our hands firmly in our pockets where public funds were concerned, and we hope that the police investigation will show that the Hon. Member for Lévis exercised more discipline and common sense in the performance of his duties than in his comments in this House.

**Mr. Speaker:** I am sorry to interrupt the Hon. Member but his time has now expired.

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[English]

## HOUSE OF COMMONS

### TRIBUTES TO PAGES

**Mr. Speaker:** I would like to take a moment to thank some very special people who have made our jobs a little easier in this Chamber, the parliamentary pages.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Speaker:** This is their last week with us. I have not asked them what they are thinking, nor would I. However, I know that Members would want me to express our sincere thanks and appreciation for all that they have done to help the House of Commons.

[Translation]

In addition to serving Hon. Members efficiently and with great dedication, these young people took part in a number of deserving projects outside the House, includ-