

S. O. 31

Past National Housing Act experience shows that the risk of mortgage default is virtually no different with a 5 per cent rather than a 10 per cent down payment.

In addition, this initiative should create hundreds of jobs at a time when they are desperately needed.

This announcement sends a very clear message that the government understands the current economic difficulties faced by Canadians and intends to do something to help.

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IMMIGRATION

Mr. Dan Heap (Trinity—Spadina): Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Employment and Immigration recently announced changes to the foreign domestic workers program which instead of improving the program has actually eroded it further. The changes fail to recognize work experience and, by forcing domestics to live in, leaves them vulnerable to abuse by employers.

The six month full-time training program criteria will make it virtually impossible for people from the Caribbean and other developing countries to qualify for these programs because they do not exist.

This Tory government is reverting back to the good old days of the British Empire and European trained nannies while paying lip service to multiculturalism.

I call on the government to deal with the recommendations submitted long ago by the domestic worker support groups which it has not answered. The work provided by foreign domestics must be recognized as an occupation needed in Canada. Foreign domestics must have the right to live out and their relevant experience as care givers and housekeepers must be recognized above formal training.

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IMMIGRATION

Mr. Rey Pagtakhan (Winnipeg North): Mr. Speaker, many a Canadian child has been cradled in the arms of a nanny from another country. These women come usually from the Philippines and other developing countries and provide services greatly in demand as housekeepers, child care givers or parents' helpers. Domestics work for very little money but often feel it is reward enough to

have a job at all, coming from countries where their futures are defined by poverty and lack of opportunity.

Therefore it is hard to comprehend why the Department of Immigration is tampering with the foreign domestic program. It is setting unnecessarily high educational standards, asking for the equivalent of almost a college degree for new applicants and in effect killing the program for those who come from developing countries. It is telling them they are no longer welcome in Canada and if they come, they must live in. This is blatant discrimination aimed at those least able to defend themselves. Life has already dealt these women enough misfortune.

I urge the minister of immigration not to add to it. Restore and improve, not destroy, the program in the name of equality and human dignity.

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AGRICULTURE

Mrs. Louise Feltham (Wild Rose): Mr. Speaker, today I would like to convey congratulations and appreciation to the Prime Minister on behalf of grain farmers of western Canada for providing another avenue by which we can market our wheat.

The help provided by our government will not only assist our farmers but will encourage new economic aid and investment for Russia. We are helping the Russian people become democratic while ensuring that the future of Canadian agriculture will be sustained and strengthened.

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HEALTH

Ms. Joy Langan (Mission—Coquitlam): Mr. Speaker, since 1988 I have demanded that the minister of health act to safeguard the health of Canadian women and remove the Meme breast implant from the market. At the same time, women from across this country who have expressed their concerns that their health was being endangered by other silicone breast implants were dismissed as being hysterical, irresponsible and uninformed.

Well, Mr. Speaker, the Meme is off the market and the U.S. food and drug administration has called for a moratorium on the distribution and use of silicone