

S. O. 31

In conclusion, I am prepared to let this go fairly quickly to committee so that the vague assertions of this legislation can be clarified. Hopefully, the agreements that are arrived at between now and the end of the legislation will be made public, and then perhaps the committee will have a better idea of how this dream and this myth can become a reality. Until then, nobody can be particularly helpful with their criticism of this legislation. I hope we can find those answers in committee and that the government is willing to listen to proposed amendments, not only from our side of the House but also as proposed by farm groups, academics and individuals.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): It being 1:17 p.m., I do now leave the chair until two o'clock this day.

The House took recess at 1:17 p.m.

AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 2 p.m.

STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S. O. 31

[English]

SOCIAL PROGRAMS

Mrs. Christine Stewart (Northumberland): Mr. Speaker, while the western world, northern nations of the world, concerned themselves with the crisis and ensuing war in the Middle East, Third World nations, southern nations, have become more and more convinced that the world has passed them by. Already crippled by the financing burdens of their international debts, the gulf war has created calamitous conditions in dozens of Third World countries as a result of increased oil prices and the loss of wage earnings from their expatriate workers in the gulf region.

For the third year in a row, the Canadian government budget has cut Official Development Assistance to Third World countries. Here in Canada families in poverty, including one in six of Canada's children, waited in vain for a sign of concern. Instead of programs to lift our Canadian poor into productive, dignified, secure futures,

the already fragile social safety nets were further weakened by this government's last budget.

Neglect of the priority needs of both developing Canadian citizens, our children and youth, and developing nations is to threaten the well-being and security of Canada's future as surely as is the neglect of our national debt.

What we criticize today is not the government's focus upon the need to eliminate our debt, but the inappropriate and short-sighted priorities of the government in achieving its objectives. Two plus more wrongs do not make a right.

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COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Lyle Dean MacWilliam (Okanagan—Shuswap): Mr. Speaker, the latest budget has revealed that while Canada's cultural sector is reeling from \$18 million in cuts, the Department of Communications has awarded itself an increase of over \$41 million, the lion's share of which goes into operating expenses.

Using \$41 million for operating expenses while starving Canadian culture is tantamount to a slap in the face for all the dedicated and talented artists in Canada who continue to live well below the poverty line.

The minister should re-examine his priorities. When stalwarts of Canadian culture like the CBC are slashed \$108 million and funding for Canada Council is frozen since 1986, how can the minister justify a 13 per cent increase to his department's bureaucracy?

The minister promised last fall to go to cabinet for more funds for Canada's cultural community, but what he neglected to explain was that he would use this money to pump up his own bureaucracy and lavish lifestyle, and not to the benefit of Canada's cultural community.

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FARM INCOME PROTECTION ACT

Mr. Larry Schneider (Regina—Wascana): Mr. Speaker, it is my sincere wish that all members of Parliament will support the rapid passage of Bill C-98, the Farm