

On Wednesday the President of the Treasury Board (Mr. Mazankowski) presented the federal Government's response to the unanimous recommendations of the Standing Committee on the Status of Disabled Persons. Entitled *Accepting the Challenge*, the response revealed plans to increase the number of disabled persons in the Public Service by 67 per cent, to 6,900 employees.

The new hiring targets will raise the number of jobs held by disabled persons from the present figure of 1.9 per cent to 3.3 per cent in March, 1991. Moreover, the Minister announced that the number of disabled persons hired as managers, scientists, and professionals will increase by 90 per cent.

The Government will also spend \$3.7 million over the next five years to provide training for the disabled and to buy equipment that will help them do their jobs, such as talking computers and Braille printers.

Disabled Canadians must have the same opportunities to participate in activities that are available to all Canadians. We are all responsible for the necessary changes which will facilitate the participation in Canadian society of disabled persons.

I am proud that the initiatives announced this week by our Government ensure that the federal Government will lead the way.

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AEROSPACE

HAWKESBURY PROPOSED AS SITE FOR CANADIAN SPACE AGENCY

Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry—Prescott—Russell): Mr. Speaker, the Government is once again in a pickle. It just cannot decide where to put its new space centre. While the Government is trying to evaluate where there is more political mileage, whether to put it in Ottawa or in Montreal, I have a solution for the Tories across the way.

A number of my constituents work in Ottawa and a number of them work in Montreal. An even greater number work in the riding of Glengarry—Prescott—Russell. This is my solution. Fifty miles from Ottawa and 50 miles from Montreal is the beautiful community of Hawkesbury in my constituency. Scientists from the National Space Centre could work in the great community of Hawkesbury.

We need the jobs, the jobs that have been destroyed by the Government with its free trade agreement. We need to restore the economy of that area, and besides, where else in Canada would you want a space centre to be, Mr. Speaker?

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POLITICAL PARTIES

NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY'S VOTE ON PROPOSED GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURES

Mr. Felix Holtmann (Selkirk—Interlake): Mr. Speaker, yesterday the House voted on the Supplementary Estimates for the 1987-88 fiscal year. Canadians who support the NDP would want to know that their elected representatives are suffering from what can only be described as a flawed flu syndrome.

The socialists voted against an additional \$63 million for old age security pensions. They voted against \$93 million for commodities under agricultural stabilization. The socialists voted against \$111 million for VIA Rail operating requirements and they voted against \$46.5 for non-insured health services to Indians and Inuit.

The socialists voted against \$330 million in statutory payments to equalization. Howard Pawley will condemn them.

The socialists voted against \$84 million in spouses' allowance payments.

How about this? They voted against \$75 million guaranteed income supplementary payments, and they voted against \$350 million for Canadian exploration and development incentive programs.

The New Democrats are sick. They will never get nominated again.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

INDIA—DETENTION OF CANADIAN CITIZEN WITHOUT TRIAL

Miss Aideen Nicholson (Trinity): Mr. Speaker, on November 24 I asked the Acting Secretary of State for External Affairs what steps the Government was taking to ensure that Mr. Balkar Singh, a Canadian citizen being detained without trial in India for several weeks, would either be brought to trial if there was evidence against him, or released if there was not evidence.

Since then it has come to light that Mr. Singh has been ill-treated in prison.

I urge the Government to pursue the matter very strongly. Mr. Singh is a Canadian citizen. Furthermore, Indian law provides that a person who becomes a citizen of Canada or of another country loses his former citizenship. Therefore, Mr. Singh is being held without trial in an Indian jail in a country where he himself has no status. It is particularly important that the Government of Canada make every effort to ensure that a Canadian citizen receives the same treatment that a Canadian citizen would receive here, namely, a prompt and fair trial if, indeed, there is evidence against him, or immediate release if there is no evidence.