

*S. O. 31***STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S. O. 31***[Translation]***FORESTRY**

Mr. Guy Saint-Julien (Abitibi): Mr. Speaker, Donohue intends to rebuild, at a cost of \$8.7 million, its crosscutting and debarking plant in Comtois, in the Abitibi, which was damaged as a result of a fire last December. Work will start on the plant this April and is expected to be completed by the end of August. It will be one of the most modern plants in Eastern Canada. Rebuilding the plant will help stabilize 400 jobs, including forestry workers.

Donohue wants its plant to be ready for the economic recovery anticipated in the second half of this year. This is very good news for forestry workers in Comtois, Lebel-sur-Quévillon, Senneterre, Barraute and the Abitibi. Mr. Speaker, I personally would like to thank Donohue management for this excellent decision.

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*[English]***CITIZENS' FORUM ON CANADA'S FUTURE**

Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa—Vanier): Mr. Speaker, on February 28, the government tabled a budget estimate of \$17.9 million to pay for the expenses for this fiscal year of the Citizen's Forum on Canada's Future. This House immediately referred the matter for scrutiny to the Standing Committee on Consumer and Corporate Affairs and Government Operations.

Our rules impose a deadline for the study, and by March 21, the committee must report or Parliament will have failed in its duty to examine how public funds are spent.

This committee has not met since last September when its chairman resigned. The government has repeatedly refused to reconvene the committee. It is high time the members of Parliament examine carefully this expenditure of taxpayers' money. The government must make sure that this committee meets within the next few days.

Mr. Speaker, there are ten days left before the deadline. I, for one, believe that the Spicer commission can make an important contribution to the ongoing

debate on this country's future, but the atmosphere has to be improved. Parliament must be involved. This House must make a thorough and serious examination of the commission's budget. To fail to do so would be a serious breach of the trust placed in Parliament by Canadians. This commission must be given a chance.

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ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

Mr. Lyle Dean MacWilliam (Okanagan—Shuswap): Mr. Speaker, tonight it will be safe to walk the streets in rural communities across Canada, but how safe will it be after March 31 if they lose their visible police force?

Funding for the RCMP had already been hacked by \$19.4 million last year by this government. For the division that polices communities in British Columbia, that has meant a \$4.1 million reduction in funds. Services like detachments in rural communities, training, and patrols have been slashed in order to cope with these budget cuts. Rural communities across this country like those in my riding, communities like Enderby, Falkland and Lumby, risk losing their visible police force presence as services are rationalized and reduced.

The choice for the provinces and the municipalities is clear: either pick up the tab or close detachments and leave communities without an effective and visible police force.

I urge the Solicitor General to reconsider his actions. Our embattled country cannot afford to lose yet another national symbol. Our small communities merit the level of protection that they have enjoyed.

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NATIONAL SOCIAL WORK WEEK

Mrs. Barbara Sparrow (Calgary Southwest): Mr. Speaker, from March 11 to 16, the Canadian Association of Social Workers will be celebrating the first annual National Social Work Week in Canada.

Social work is a profession with a long history of commitment to improving the well-being of people in society, particularly those people with special needs. Today's social workers are employed in family agencies, hospitals, seniors' programs, and child protection services. They may work directly with individuals, groups,