

S. O. 31

Day after day, members of the Opposition use the entire Question Period on the budget leak.

Surely Members from Prince Edward Island have a question or two about Summerside. I know that they do. Surely Members from Nova Scotia and Newfoundland have a question on the fishery. Surely Members from New Brunswick can think of a question on forestry. Surely Members from Quebec have a question on language, and I am sure Members from Manitoba can think of a question on defence. Surely someone in Canada has at least one question on VIA Rail, interest rates, or the Budget, but there are no questions.

While we spend weeks discussing who knew what in a two-hour period, issues that affect the entire lives of whole communities are being ignored.

Yes, ask some questions about the leak, but address some of the issues that are of concern to regular people too, not just the politicians and the media.

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NORTHERN AFFAIRS

MANDATE OF TASK FORCE ON COST BENEFITS

Mr. Len Taylor (The Battlefords—Meadow Lake): Mr. Speaker, this week the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson) changed the mandate of the task force on cost benefits for northern and isolated areas to remove the mandate that its report be revenue neutral and that the important recommendations it can make when it reports this fall neither increase nor decrease the fiscal burden on the Government of Canada.

The task force has toured the country and heard representations from individuals and community groups expressing the desire for a tax program that is fair and equitable to the residents of northern and isolated communities. The change in the mandate now asks the task force to consider the Government's new-found agenda of budget restraint which can only restrict the task force's options for recommendations.

• (1410)

I want to suggest and encourage that the task force remain true to its original mandate of preparing a report that is fair and equitable to the people in northern and isolated areas and strives to improve, not remove, that beneficial program.

[Translation]

FILMS

CANNES FILM FESTIVAL—TRIBUTES TO DENYS ARCAND AND GILLES CARLE

Mrs. Sheila Finestone (Mount Royal): Mr. Speaker, two Canadians distinguished themselves at the Film Festival in Cannes. For his film *Jésus de Montréal*, Denys Arcand received the most prestigious prize ever awarded a Canadian.

Once more, Denys Arcand returns to this country, after earning the esteem of his peers and receiving the praise—not a frequent occurrence—of the critics who judged his film as the best of all 22 films that were competing.

But there is more! Gilles Carle won the prize for short films with his *50 ans de l'ONF*. In only two minutes and forty seconds, this filmmaker gave us an emotional and creative celebration of the National Film Board's anniversary.

Some Hon. Members may think Denys Arcand should apologize, but we prefer to congratulate these enormously talented Canadians for their contribution to the cultural life of our country and for making us so proud.

We wish them every success and urge movie theatre owners across Canada to screen these films, and we also urge Canadians to go and see *50 ans de l'ONF* and *Jésus de Montréal*.

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ORDER OF CANADA

TRIBUTES TO JEAN VANIER

Mrs. Gabrielle Bertrand (Brome—Missisquoi): Mr. Speaker, in times that many people consider too materialistic, it is comforting to meet people like Jean Vanier, who is about to be awarded the most distinguished award in this country, the Companion of the Order of Canada.

The founder of l'Arche, a project that integrates the mentally handicapped in society, Jean Vanier has earned admiration and respect wherever he established his 90 homes. These mentally-handicapped men, women and children, whom a famous author lovingly nicknamed God's jesters, are treated by Jean Vanier as his own sons and daughters. L'Arche, which should be referred to in the plural form because there are so many today, has proved to be a haven of happiness and serenity, an oasis