

## S. O. 21

We have every reason to be proud of this initiative that will most certainly have a considerable economic impact on the entire economy of this country.

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## UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

## REQUEST FOR AMENDMENTS TO PROGRAM

**Mr. Jean-Claude Malépart (Montreal—Sainte-Marie):** Mr. Speaker, the House will recall that the Conservative Government set up a commission of inquiry, referred to as the Forget Commission, and that \$6 million of taxpayers' money were spent on a study to reform unemployment insurance.

Furthermore, a committee consisting of Members of all parties in this House worked day and night, and a number of people appeared before this committee and submitted briefs.

Mr. Speaker, I warn the Government and the Minister of Employment and Immigration (Mr. Bouchard). If this Government announces tomorrow that it will maintain the *status quo* for unemployment insurance, it will be the worst scandal we have ever known, twice as bad as the Prime Minister's shoes, Mr. Speaker. Everybody agrees, both labour and management, that changes are necessary in unemployment insurance. We are against the annualization of unemployment insurance, and we are in favour of an improved program that will protect part-time workers and ensure that people who are drawing benefits because of illness or maternity leave, are not penalized when there is a work stoppage. Mr. Speaker, if the Government doesn't announce any changes tomorrow, it will be an out and out scandal.

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[English]

## POLICE WEEK

## MEMBERS' APPRECIATION OF POLICE FORCES

**Mr. Gerry St. Germain (Mission—Port Moody):** Mr. Speaker, this is Police Week and I am pleased to take a few moments to express, on behalf of Members of the this House, our appreciation to the Canadian police community.

Advances in technology and communications are resulting in the emergence of increasingly complex and sophisticated crimes. Canada's police forces are adapting to these changes by enhancing the knowledge and skills of their members and by expanding the use of modern technology in the war against crime.

There is also a need, however, to update our criminal law to take into account the emergence of new crimes, new ways of committing traditional crimes such as theft and fraud, and complex criminal conspiracies which span continents.

Police Week serves as a cogent reminder to all Hon. Members that we as legislators have a responsibility to assist our police forces by providing them with the tools to deal with increasingly complex and sophisticated crimes while at the same time preserving the rights and freedoms of individual Canadians.

Today we salute the police forces and the police of this country.

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## INDIAN AFFAIRS

## POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

**Mr. Keith Penner (Cochrane—Superior):** Mr. Speaker, the announcement today by the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (Mr. McKnight) regarding Indian post-secondary education is a distressing statement. It is closing the doors on Indian students seeking higher education. It is limiting and restricting their entrance to post-secondary institutions. The Minister has made public only his Government's new restrictive criteria, which will suffocate many Indian students' education and employment aspirations.

While the announcement seems to assure those who are currently enrolled of continued assistance, this is not certain. Those whose applications were deferred last year—and I point out this was due to lack of funding—are also assured of some help, but high school graduates, or mature students enrolling for the first time, will only be considered if there are any funds left over in the budget. That is not very likely. The same applies to those who are seeking to do postgraduate studies or earn professional degrees in law, education or medicine.

● (1405)

Once again the Government of Canada is failing to live up to its trust and constitutional responsibilities to Indian people. It is running away. There will be a strong reaction to the Minister's efforts to limit his role in helping Indian students attain higher education.

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## ABORTION

## EIGHTEENTH ANNIVERSARY OF PASSAGE OF LEGISLATION

**Mr. John Oostrom (Willowdale):** Mr. Speaker, today marks the eighteenth anniversary of the current abortion law. On May 14, 1969, Parliament voted to change Section 251 of the Criminal Code, a move which now results in over 60,000 abortions per year. In the last 18 years nearly one million unborn children have been aborted in Canadian hospitals.