

## S.O. 21

In recent days we have seen a Government eager to sell out its economic independence. I hope and urge that the Government does not sell out Canada's cultural industry.

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[Translation]

## GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION

## FOLLOW-UP ON CONSTITUENTS' FILES

**Mr. Fernand Ladouceur (Labelle):** Mr. Speaker, my statement is of interest to all Members in this House. On September 4, 1984, the Progressive Conservative Party was brought to power by a majority of Canadians and by this very fact a number of us were entrusted with new responsibilities as Members of Parliament, as representatives and as aggressive supporters of the interests of our ridings.

After having been better than three months in office, I am amazed if not shocked by the little information and the total lack of interest shown by our predecessors with respect to the forwarding of files during the transfer of powers. This problem is even more acute, and I am sure that this shameful situation, to say the least, reflects a lack of ethics and blatant disrespect for the wishes and aspirations of our constituents.

Mr. Speaker, in view of those failures and this feeling of injustice, it is my hope that we, in this House, will be introducing measures ensuring that files are transferred whenever a new Member is elected, with this transfer being mandatory in order that our constituents may enjoy a minimum of equity. This will give a new lustre to our institutions and administrations.

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[English]

## SOCIAL SECURITY

## SHARE OF GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT SPENT ON SOCIAL SERVICES

**Mr. Bill Blaikie (Winnipeg-Birds Hill):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to the attention of the House a recent study done by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development which shows that Canada devotes 11.8 per cent of its Gross Domestic Product to social services compared to an average for other rich industrialized nations of 14.1 per cent. The study shows that Canada runs a poor sixth among the big seven OECD countries in sharing the returns from the economy with the poor, the unemployed, pensioners, veterans and the like.

The present Government would have us believe that social programs are the cause of our deficit. This report demonstrates that that is completely false, and that the Government is using the deficit as a cover for its own ideological agenda against universality and social programs, things which it has opposed for a long time. The fact of the matter is that the

deficit is caused by the recession in combination with discretionary policies of previous Governments dealing with tax policies, interest rates, and a range of economic measures that have absolutely nothing to do with the viability of social programs in our country. What is being perpetrated by this Government, with respect to the so-called burden social programs are on the economy of the country, is nothing short of a hoax.

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● (1410)

## THE ECONOMY

## RESTORATION OF INVESTOR CONFIDENCE

**Mr. Don Ravis (Saskatoon East):** Mr. Speaker, the Economic Council of Canada recently released its twenty-first annual review of Canada's economy. The report indicates that the deficit has helped erode business and investor confidence and has slowed the growth of jobs in the private sector. It could become even more serious in the future unless the Government takes steps to control it. The unchecked spending of the previous Liberal administration has forced our Government to make serious financial decisions to bring about order in federal government spending so that many more jobs can be created, along with future prosperity for our country.

It is, therefore, ironic that Hon. Members in the Opposition have shown such concern over the Government's initiative to restore international investor confidence in Canada through the establishment of Investment Canada under Bill C-15, which was tabled in the House last Friday. It is new initiatives like this which will begin to repay the approximately \$190 billion of debt which the Liberal Government has accumulated over the past decade, mortgaging the future of our youth.

Restoring confidence in our economy will result in greater job opportunities for both young and old. However, this will not be as instantaneous as members of the Opposition demand. Canadians must judge the level of sincerity of the Liberals and the New Democratic Party who now want instant solutions and who criticize every initiative of a new Government, one which is trying to resolve the economic crisis in our country. The gloom and doom statements of the Opposition are in direct contrast to the growing optimism which Canadians feel for the future.

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## NUCLEAR ARMAMENTS

## NUCLEAR FREEZE PROPOSAL

**Hon. Warren Allmand (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce-Lachine East):** Mr. Speaker, since I did not have an opportunity to speak in the nuclear freeze debate yesterday, I would like to explain my "yes" vote on that resolution. I have been strongly in favour of the Mexican-Swedish freeze proposal for some time. There are now over 50,000 nuclear weapons in the world,