

He organized Alberta's 1967 celebrations of the centennial and received an honorary doctor of laws degree for his service to and support of Alberta's three universities. He held the Order of Canada and the Alberta Order of Excellence.

Above all, he was a mentor to three generations of Canadian broadcasters of whom I had the good fortune to be one.

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THE BUDGET

Hon. Chas. L. Caccia (Davenport): Mr. Speaker, in 1990 when the Minister of the Environment launched the green plan he said: "Canadians want their green plan to be adequately funded. Cabinet has authorized a \$3 billion budget over five years".

In 1991 the funds were stretched over a six-year period. In 1992, \$150 million were deferred to a later date. Clearly with these actions the government is breaking faith with its commitment to the environment.

But that is not all. The government is now closing down the Science Council, the Canadian Environmental Advisory Council, the International Centre for Ocean Development.

These decisions are short-sighted and damaging to the well-being of Canadians. These useful bodies have served the public interest well. By suppressing these voices, the government continues its agenda to dismantle Canada.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

MAIN ESTIMATES

Hon. Herb Gray (Windsor West): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister arising out of the spending estimates tabled today.

In Tuesday's budget the government said that it is committed to restraining its spending. In that budget the government had no money for the Science Council and the Economic Council. In today's estimates, the government said that it will be spending millions of dollars on a museum of humour.

Oral Questions

Why is there no money for research, the unemployed, day care but millions of dollars for a museum of humour? Is this because the Prime Minister wants a showcase for all his broken election promises?

[Translation]

Hon. Benoît Bouchard (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I think that the hon. member knows full well that this grant was given to a Montreal cultural agency exactly two years ago for a fixed period of time for the development in Montreal of a building representing millions of dollars in investments and hundreds of jobs. I would like to hear the hon. member from the opposition tell us that he is opposed to a cultural agency that could create jobs in Montreal.

Hon. Herb Gray (Windsor West): Mr. Speaker, yesterday, the minister talked about priorities. He said that because of the new priorities it was possible for him to break his promise of putting in place a national child care program. I ask the minister once again why is a museum of humour more important than child care facilities for Canadian families in Montreal and everywhere in Canada?

Hon. Benoît Bouchard (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I ask the hon. member of the opposition to tell us, contrary to what his colleague the hon. member from Montreal regularly tells us about job creation, that he is opposed, and I would like to hear it directly from the hon. member, to Montreal cultural agencies creating dozens of jobs for Montrealers in a city where 600,000 people are below the poverty level. That is what I ask the hon. member.

• (1420)

Hon. Herb Gray (Windsor West): Mr. Speaker, the minister does not have the courage to answer my question. Why is the government spending several million dollars for a museum of humour when, at the same time, it is cutting back its co-op housing program which means that 500 new units will not be built this year in the Montreal area?

There are 10,000 names on the waiting list for such units in the city of Montreal.

Hon. Benoît Bouchard (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, once again the hon. member knows full well that this cultural organization, incorporated in Montreal, organizes a summer festival which generates millions of dollars for the people of Montreal.