

S. O. 31

News reports indicate that Christians in some cases have been killed or sentenced to death on false charges of blasphemy against Islam.

We congratulate the Government of Pakistan for abandoning plans to show religious affiliation on citizens' identity cards, which would have opened the way for more discrimination against Christians in lodging and employment.

We call on the Government of Pakistan to fulfil its commitment to provide compensation to the churches that were damaged in riots last year and to provide adequate security in the future, rather than curtailing the rights and freedoms of Christians and other religious minorities.

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[Translation]

THE ECONOMY

Mr. Marcel R. Tremblay (Québec-Est): Mr. Speaker, the government has a strategy which will foster economic recovery, and pave the way for the future and will control the deficit. It depends on private sector support, because the private sector will guarantee our future growth.

We know that just stimulating public spending in the hope of stimulating growth does not work. We have many examples of countries that tried to escape the realities of the world economy. Many times we saw them try to throw money into ill-conceived public investments and poorly designed job creation programs. Many times they have had to retreat, cut spending and get their finances back in order. This has happened in France, in Great Britain and more recently in Ontario. Why would the opposition recommend policies that have always failed?

Look around the world and see the countries which are prosperous. They are not the ones which tolerate inflation, close their markets to trade or accumulate deficits by spending on make-work projects. This government would prefer to learn from those success stories. Why is the opposition always ready to repeat failures?

• (1405)

[English]

TAXATION

Mr. Maurice Foster (Algoma): Mr. Speaker, municipalities across Canada are being hit hard by the decision of the Minister of Finance to freeze their grants in lieu of taxes at the 1992 level this year.

This drastic action will cost municipalities \$40 million this year as they try to cope with rising costs for welfare and other municipal services. Other municipal taxpayers have to pay the increase in their municipal rates this year. Many of these municipal taxpayers in the Algoma riding are unemployed. Yet if they do not pay their taxes the municipality will seize their home and their property.

Why should the federal government be any different from other taxpayers? That is why this very high-handed move by the federal government places an unfair additional burden on municipalities.

I call on the Minister of Finance to reverse this decision immediately, remove the freeze on municipal grants in lieu of taxes and pay taxes just like any other taxpayer.

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PEARSON INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Mr. Don Blenkarn (Mississauga South): Mr. Speaker, a complete environmental review process was put in place with respect to the Lester B. Pearson International Airport and its expansion. The committee held extensive hearings and completed an interim report in November 1992.

The government has totally disregarded that report and has decided to build a major 8,000-foot runway 4,500 feet west of the existing north-south runway. This new runway will create a new air traffic corridor over homes, schools and the Queensway Hospital, facilities that until now have had no air noise.

The environmental review report said the buildings and homes that are seriously affected should be compensated and retrofitted with anti-noise baffling. The minister has refused to do this and refused to do anything to protect homeowners threatened by the new air corridor