

cent in one year to over 1 million children living in poverty.

Another part of the article says that girls whose families are on welfare—listen to this one—have 3.9 times the rate of poor school performance compared to girls whose families are not on welfare. There are one of two things happening. Either those people who eventually find themselves out of a job and on welfare have kids who are not as smart, or because they are on welfare and perhaps not getting nutritious food, those children are not able to perform in the school system to their fullest potential.

You can go a little further. On the next page it said: "Child poverty rates are directly tied to adult jobless rates." It means that if a child is plunged into poverty because the government has not created the economic climate which will allow that parent to participate in the economy to the fullest of his potential then it is creating a cycle of throw away people.

• (1400)

I have three children of my own and I would do anything in the world to make sure that those children have every opportunity to develop to the fullest of their potential. I can imagine how I would feel or how any member of this House would feel if we knew our children could not find a job and that having to live below poverty in this rich nation would lead to their children not being able to dream about the successes that should be theirs. This government constantly denies the reality of the facts that are before us.

My colleague from Broadview—Greenwood indicated that what we need is a government which is concerned, not about keeping people on welfare below the poverty levels, but a government that is concerned about putting people back to work, making them productive, allowing them to dream, allowing them to plan for their children and for their children's children's future.

This government has done absolutely the opposite in the last two and a half years. It has come in with a series of regressive measures that has taken money away from training, job support and job creation. My goodness, look at what the Liberal government, that members opposite love to criticize all the time, did in the last recession. We came out with programs. We had a special capital

recovery program to put people back to work, to give people their dignity back.

The Speaker is motioning to me. I think my time is up, but I will continue this a little later, Mr. Speaker.

S. O. 31

STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S. O. 31

[English]

CANADIAN CENTRE FOR OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

Ms. Beth Phinney (Hamilton Mountain): Mr. Speaker, on a number of occasions, my hon. colleagues from Hamilton East and Hamilton West and I have inquired about the government's plans for the Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety.

We have been assured that the government intends to keep this world class facility open. Yet late last year a Treasury Board document indicated that the Minister of Labour was asked to prepare a plan to close the centre. This was to be completed by mid-January of this year.

To close this unique information centre would be a tragedy for Hamilton and for working people across Canada. The centre has been living in limbo for long enough.

I call on the government to give some indication of its commitment to work place health and safety in this country.

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HOUSING

Hon. Alan Redway (Don Valley East): Mr. Speaker, I wish to congratulate today the minister responsible for Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, the Minister of Finance and the Prime Minister for the announcement that 5 per cent down payments are now available to first time home buyers.

This initiative will increase home ownership, encourage personal initiative and reinforce family values. Many Canadians can afford mortgage payments for a home, especially with the present lower interest rates, but they cannot afford the down payment. CMHC calculates that 5 per cent down payments will allow an additional 200,000 Canadian households to own their own homes.