

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Friday, March 7, 1986

The House met at 11 a.m.

STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S.O. 21

[Translation]

THE BUDGET

ANTICIPATED REIMBURSEMENT OF TAX CREDIT

Mr. Jean-Claude Malépart (Montreal-Sainte-Marie): Yesterday, Mr. Speaker, I sent a letter to the Right Hon. the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney), and I would urge all Hon. Members to do the same thing and support my request.

You have all noticed that the Government's Budget contains an error concerning the tax credit prepayment, the kind of error that was made with respect to the deindexation of old age security pensions. Knowingly or not, the Government decided to ignore 538,000 families entitled to the tax credit. As a result of the ceiling arbitrarily set at \$15,000, the Government penalizes those families and delivers them in the hands of tax discounters.

Now then, Mr. Speaker, considering that the greatest majority of those families are headed by women, and considering that we are on the eve of International Women's Day, I am sure—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The 60 seconds have expired.

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INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

TRIBUTE TO MARIE GÉRIN-LAJOIE

Mrs. Lucie Pépin (Outremont): Mr. Speaker, tomorrow March 8 being International Women's Day, I should like to pay homage to an outstanding Quebecer and Canadian, Marie Gérin-Lajoie.

She was French Canada's first graduate bachelor. She was the forerunner of those who took up the fight for the cause of women. She worked for many years in social services and founded the *Institut Notre-Dame-du-bon-conseil*, a religious group devoted to social action.

Marie Gérin-Lajoie belonged to a great family that associated privileges inherent in academic achievement and wealth with social responsibilities.

It was her mother who fought to open Quebec's first classical school for girls. Her mother was also one of the founders of the *Fédération nationale Saint-Jean-Baptiste*. Her grandmother founded Sainte-Justine Hospital.

Mr. Speaker, Marie Gérin-Lajoie was certainly far ahead of her time in her thinking about the place of women in society. The story of her life is an example which should be a source of inspiration to all of us.

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[English]

HOUSING

HALIFAX VACANCY RATE AND RENTS

Mr. John R. Rodriguez (Nickel Belt): Mr. Speaker, adequate affordable housing is a problem that affects many Canadians. It is a very serious problem for persons in the Atlantic Region, and an especially serious problem for women.

In the Halifax region the housing vacancy rate has been below 1 per cent for the past five consecutive years. This makes finding housing difficult for all persons, but for female-led, single parent families, it is almost intolerable.

The average monthly rental cost for an apartment in the Halifax area is \$583, while the average monthly shelter allowance for a family of three or more is only \$468. As a result, over 65 per cent of female-led single parent families in the Atlantic region have had severe affordability problems in finding housing, even at the 30 per cent level of income for shelter.

Today, March 7, a group of women called Mothers United for Metro Shelter, are demonstrating in front of the Halifax Legislature demanding adequate and affordable housing for themselves and their children. I hope the Tory Government is listening.

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BUDGET

EXTENSION OF NORTHERN TAX BENEFITS

Mr. Thomas Suluk (Nunatsiaq): Mr. Speaker, the Budget brings to northerners and those living in remote regions of Canada the long-awaited announcement of equity and increased fairness with respect to the taxation of northern benefits. Reports from across the Yukon, Northwest Territories, and northern Manitoba indicate an appreciation for a Budget which recognizes and addresses the high cost of northern living. The new system extends housing, travel, and person-