

S. O. 31

spending and every new tax measure which we have proposed.

This is a time for candour and honesty. As we proceed with debate on the Budget, each speech should be judged by whether it offers only hollow, partisan criticism or realistic and honest alternatives on how best to deal with these very real problems.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: It being 11 o'clock, the House will now proceed to Statements by Members pursuant to Standing Order 31.

• (1100)

STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S. O. 31

[*English*]

EAST-WEST RELATIONS

DISMANTLING OF PORTION OF IRON CURTAIN

Mr. Tom Wappel (Scarborough West): Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday May 2, the world was pleased to see a small part of the Iron Curtain being dismantled. For decades, 240 kilometres of barbed wire fence has stood on the Hungarian-Austrian border but, by order of the Government of Hungary, it is now being removed.

This is a clear indication that East-West relationships are improving and that cold war ideologies are no longer the doctrine of the day. In the past year we have seen *glasnost perestroika*, the INF treaty and conventional arms reductions in Europe, all symbols of hope and peace.

Although 240 kilometres is but a small portion of the Iron Curtain, it is, hopefully, just the first step toward open and unguarded geopolitical borders between citizens of the globe.

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THE ENVIRONMENT

ACID RAIN CONTROL

Mr. Ross Stevenson (Durham): Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) continues to emphasize to President Bush the critical importance of the Canada-U.S. agreement to control acid rain.

From his first visit to Washington, the Prime Minister has taken bold initiatives toward a mutual agreement for the reduction of acid gas emissions.

As a former university professor who has been involved in environmental issues and research for more than 20 years, I have witnessed the tremendous scientific progress here in Canada. I join with other Canadians in applauding the continuing efforts of the Prime Minister and other Canadian representatives in Washington.

I know they will continue to take every opportunity to advance Canada's position on acid rain. This is an issue on which our desires must and will prevail.

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TRADE

FUR INDUSTRY, — REPLACEMENT OF LEG-HOLD TRAPS

Ms. Audrey McLaughlin (Yukon): Mr. Speaker, in a recent development, the European Commission of the European Economic Parliament has proposed a ban to import fur and fur products from countries which are using the leg-hold trap. They propose this ban by 1996. This is a move which must be taken very seriously.

The \$600 million a year fur industry employs 105,000 Canadians. There are 1,000 trappers in my riding of the Yukon. In fact, over 70 per cent of our furs are exported to the European community. What is necessary now is an immediate commitment on the part of the Government to assist in increased trap research, trapper training and public education, and a shared federal-provincial territorial trap replacement program.

The fur industry is a vital part of our economy and one which, I might add, depends upon the preservation of the environment rather than its destruction.

I call on the Government to make a strong commitment to help this industry.

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[*Translation*]

SPORTS GREATS

HOMAGE TO LÉANDRE COUTURE

Mr. Jean-Guy Guilbault (Drummond): Mr. Speaker, last Saturday evening in Drummondville, Mr. Léandre Couture was honoured as the sports celebrity of 1989, an award he shares with Rosaire Smith, Harry Howorth, Olivier Carignan, Laurent Sawyer, Guy Bissonnette,