

S. O. 31

[English]

It is important since we have 12 ministers from the province of Quebec who sit in this federal cabinet that they go to the province of Quebec and speak in favour of a renewed Canada. So far the only person who has done that from the government across the way has been the Prime Minister, who has gone out and said "yes" to the report of the three political parties. That is important, but it is important also that the other 12 ministers do the same.

I ask this question: Who speaks for Canada? Who speaks for a renewed Canada in the province of Quebec? It is important that the 12 ministers get out there and sell this idea of a renewed Canada that we talk about in our report to the people in the province of Quebec. It is important that they do so.

Mr. Speaker, I ask this: Who besides the Prime Minister is speaking for a renewed Canada in the province of Quebec?

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## SHABBAT ZACHOR

**Mr. Bill Attewell (Markham—Whitchurch—Stouffville):** Mr. Speaker, this Saturday marks Shabbat Zachor, a sabbath set aside by Jews around the world to remember the plight of all oppressed Jews.

I believe very strongly that we must remember the struggles of the people who face daily discrimination because they are Jewish. Syrian Jews are in this intolerable situation.

It was at this time in 1974 that four young Syrian women were caught trying to escape Syria into Lebanon. Their raped and mutilated bodies were dumped in sacks in front of their parents' Damascus homes.

Jewish students from across Canada will be on Parliament Hill tomorrow lobbying to make us aware of the terrible plight of Syrian Jews.

We must support them and work together to ensure that Syrian officials stop this persecution. Syrian Jews

must no longer be denied important and basic human rights.

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## VETERANS AFFAIRS

**Mr. George Proud (Hillsborough):** Mr. Speaker, when the Minister of Finance announced the winding down of the Veterans Land Administration's recent budget, he caused a great deal of grief to the employees of this agency by the manner in which the elimination of the agency was announced. At the time no clear path was announced for the future of the agency or its employees. Other employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs are also wondering what the future holds for them.

I call on the Minister of Veterans Affairs to assure the employees, both of VLA and other sections of the Veterans Affairs portfolio, at the earliest possible time that there will be no staff cuts in this department.

I want the minister to also assure the House that he is not planning to shuffle departmental positions around the country to satisfy short-term political gain. The people in this department deserve to know what the future holds for them. The veterans of Canada also deserve to know that the high level of service to which they have become accustomed since the end of the wars will continue.

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## TRURO, NOVA SCOTIA

**Mr. Bill Casey (Cumberland—Colchester):** Mr. Speaker, *Chatelaine* magazine recently chose Truro, Nova Scotia, as one of the 10 best communities in Canada in which to live. Truro was selected based on being one of the safest, most affordable, most neighbourly towns. I would like to add that Truro is also innovative, positive, generous and independent.

Currently Truro groups are working on economic development projects, environmental projects, and immigration projects that are unique for all of Canada.

During the application period for the Atlantic women's prison, Truro groups came together and developed a very comprehensive application involving many sectors of the community. Even now, after the decision to locate