

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Wednesday, February 15, 1995

The House met at 2 p.m.

Prayers

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

[*English*]

SOCIAL PROGRAMS

Ms. Judy Bethel (Edmonton East, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, the premier of Alberta recently received a B-plus grade from the Fraser Institute for his government's approach to fiscal management and deficit reduction in my province. In its eyes he is an honour student.

However in another report card, one given by the people of Alberta, the premier received a failing grade for his approach in cutting essential services. The disapproval is growing. Some 69 per cent believe changes in health care services have been brought about irresponsibly while 67 per cent disapprove of how the province has handled cuts in education.

Albertans, like all Canadians, support leaner and more efficient government but they will not accept an assault on their most valued and essential services. The premier's approach may be praised by a few but it is not a responsible one in the eyes of many.

The federal government on the other hand will act responsibly in the upcoming budget by controlling spending and reducing waste. However we refuse to sacrifice the things that Canadians value most for the sake of a few accolades.

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[*Translation*]

QUEBEC SENIORS' FEDERATION

Mr. Maurice Godin (Châteauguay, BQ): Mr. Speaker, the Quebec seniors' federation or Fédération de l'âge d'or du Québec celebrated its 25th anniversary yesterday. On this occasion, its president, Mr. Philippe Lapointe, reiterated the FADOQ's commitment to participate in the important discus-

sions on sovereignty and on the reform of social programs, in which the Fédération was quick to support the students.

Seniors are currently taking part in the vital process of consultation on the future of Quebec. Every day, the Commission des aînés meets with many seniors who come to voice their questions, fears and aspirations.

Mr. Lapointe said the FADOQ would follow the debate closely. The Bloc Québécois is delighted by the calm and watchful attitude of the FADOQ and hopes that its members will participate actively in the consultation process so they may define the country they helped build.

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[*English*]

WESTERN ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION

Mr. Cliff Breitzkreuz (Yellowhead, Ref.): Mr. Speaker, over the years western economic diversification has sunk taxpayers' money into all kinds of projects: the Custom Gourmet Coffee Shop, Dave's Pizza, Imperial Oil. Even Novatel had the pleasure of receiving taxpayers' dollars courtesy of WED.

Today taxpayers can take delight in knowing their hard earned dollars are going to yet another worthy project, the Artificial Reef Society of British Columbia. WED is loaning \$160,000 to this group so it can buy a ship from DND. It wants to use government money to buy a government ship so it can be towed out to sea and sunk.

What an investment. To top it off this group claims it will pay WED off by selling salvaged boat parts. We hear old boat parts are selling like hotcakes. WED will be repaid its \$160,000 in no time flat at the used boat flea market.

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CANADIAN FLAG

Mr. Andrew Telegdi (Waterloo, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to inform the House of the visit to Ottawa today by Mrs. Cathy Ingram, a teacher at the Fellowship Christian School, and her students from the city of Waterloo. I am pleased they are in Ottawa today as we celebrate the 30th anniversary of Canada's maple leaf flag.

As a former refugee who came to Canada with my parents, brother and sister in 1957, I now have the privilege of represent-