

Perhaps if this government had spent 0.7 per cent GDP on foreign aid as the environment minister promised yet again at the earth summit, there would be no need to send troops to famine-stricken Somalia.

The Conservatives also cut environment spending here at home instead of investing in a long-term, environmentally sound economic strategy.

They have demonstrated appalling deception by promising all kinds of action at the international level knowing they will renege, retreat and reveal their true Tory-blue nature.

I have some advice for this crisis-mismanagement government: scrap helicopters. Finance environmental security both here and abroad.

\* \* \*

#### MEDICAL RESEARCH

**Mr. Scott Thorkelson (Edmonton—Strathcona):** Mr. Speaker, the University of Alberta, which is situated in Edmonton—Strathcona, is the second largest university in Canada. It is renowned for its excellence in medicine, pharmacy and chemistry. The University of Alberta's Health Sciences Centre is a leading edge hospital. Alberta is also home to the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund Medical Research Foundation which funds medical research out of the earnings of its \$600 million fund.

Recently Glaxo Canada announced it would spend \$15 million over five years on research leading to potential cures of hepatitis B and AIDS. Its partners are the University of Alberta, the University of Alberta Health Sciences Centre and the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund Medical Research Foundation.

This is a powerful combination of commitment, equipment, research capability and knowledge. Over 40 Ph.D.s will be involved in this project.

This is all possible because of Bill C-91, an act to extend patent protection to brand name, innovative pharmaceutical manufacturers.

\* \* \*

#### PREMIER RALPH KLEIN

**Mr. Alex Kindy (Calgary Northeast):** Mr. Speaker, on December 5, Ralph Klein, former mayor of Calgary and

*S. O. 31*

environment minister, steamrolled passed the establishment to win the race to become leader of the Alberta Progressive Conservatives and the province's 12th premier.

For the first time, Albertans of all political stripes were entitled to cast their ballots for the premier. This is the first step toward the primary voting system in Canada. Albertans want more open and democratic institutions. They will continue to lead the way for change.

As well, Albertans would like to know why the House Special Committee on Parliamentary Reform has held 21 secret and only 4 open meetings. This committee of Conservatives, Liberals and NDPers exemplifies the archaic attitudes of this institution.

Albertans want an elected Senate. We urge the Prime Minister to listen to the people and call for elections to fill the current vacancies in the Senate.

Congratulations, Premier Ralph. I wish you and Colleen success in your efforts on behalf of the people.

\* \* \*

#### CHRISTMAS TREE INDUSTRY

**Mr. Peter L. McCreath (South Shore):** Mr. Speaker, later this afternoon a ceremony will take place that recognizes excellence in one of Canada's renewable resource industries, the real Christmas tree industry.

This year's national winner of the annual competition to determine Canada's outstanding Christmas tree grower is Mr. Bruce Turner of New Ross, Lunenburg County, Nova Scotia. Bruce will present a winning tree to the Prime Minister.

Cultivated real Christmas trees are grown to be harvested. They represent one of the most important centre-pieces in the celebration of the Christmas season. Real Christmas trees are a renewable resource produced by an environmentally friendly industry. They are beautiful and they even smell good.

I urge all members and all Canadians to include a real Christmas tree in their plans this year. None are better than the balsam firs produced by Bruce Turner and his fellow growers from Lunenburg County and the South Shore of Nova Scotia.