

● (1410)

THE BUDGET**SUPPORT FROM PENSIONER**

Mr. Lorne McCuish (Prince George-Bulkley Valley): Mr. Speaker, since May 23 when the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson) introduced his Budget, he and other members of the Government have been stressing the need for Canada to reduce its deficit and live within its means. I can assure you, Mr. Speaker, that there are countless Canadians who share these views, and I would like to share with you excerpts from a letter I received from a lady in Prince George, British Columbia, whom I have never met but who, I am sure, all Hon. Members will agree is an outstanding Canadian. The letter reads as follows:

Dear Sir,

I hereby return my old age pension cheque, and pledge its return for six months. It is plain to see that Canada is in deep trouble. Our beautiful Canada is becoming a decadent nation! I grieve for her.

That is not enough, and while it is ludicrous to think that my cheque can make a difference, I feel that is the only honest thing I can do—could this tiny drop become a trickle, then a torrent that would wipe out this debilitating debt? I believe it could. I believe there are enough people in this country, who, like myself have had the privilege of working and rearing families in this beautiful land, who would now be willing—no glad!—to pay back the debt we owe to this great land.

Thousands of men and women gave their lives for this country, and many more thousands gave several years of their lives during recent wars. Surely the rest of us, who live above subsistence level, can give—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I regret to interrupt the Hon. Member but his time has expired.

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CITIZENSHIP**FEE INCREASE**

Hon. Bob Kaplan (York Centre): Mr. Speaker, one of the most rewarding parts of being a Member of Parliament is being able occasionally to attend citizenship ceremonies. I have been to many, as I am sure other Hon. Members have as well. One of the most interesting parts of the ceremony is to see the very large families which show up to become Canadian citizens on these occasions.

That may change as a result of the increase in citizenship fees imposed by the new Government, and which become effective at the beginning of April. The fee used to be \$25 for an adult. It is now \$40. For a child it used to be \$8. It is now \$15. So for a large family it can cost well over \$100.

Last week I telephoned the citizenship office in Toronto to ask if there had been a drop in the number of people applying for citizenship. I was called back a few days later and told that this April there was a 40 per cent drop compared to what there had been in April a year ago. Canadian citizenship is priceless, but this 40 per cent drop is the result of the actions of the Tory Government.

*S.O. 21***THE ADMINISTRATION****STATEMENTS ATTRIBUTED TO MINISTER OF THE ENVIRONMENT**

Mr. Bill Blaikie (Winnipeg-Birds Hill): Mr. Speaker, I would like to comment on the letter which was sent by the Minister of the Environment (Mrs. Blais-Grenier) to the President of the Canadian Nature Federation, Greg Sheehy. In this rather snarky letter the Minister indicates to the President of the Canadian Nature Federation that she would like to be judged only by her actions and not by her words. I want to say to the Minister that I think anyone who has been around here for a while will know that Ministers must also to be judged by their words. What Cabinet Ministers say creates a political context, sends out a message, sends out a signal. If the Minister of the Environment muses about logging and mining in national parks, she sends out a signal. In fact I am informed that some logging companies have already expressed an interest.

If the Minister says that people have worked for 30 years with PCBs and no harm has come to them—as a rather pathetic defence of government inaction on that issues—she sends out a signal to polluters that the Government is kind of relaxed about that issue.

If the Minister of the Environment muses about privatization in public parks, that says something to people who might be interested in the private exploitation of those parks. It may be that the public nature of our parks is not as sacred as it used to be.

So I say to the Minister of the Environment that she is to be judged not only by her actions but by what she says, by the kind of signal she sends out, and the sooner she realizes that, the better.

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HUMAN RIGHTS**CANADIAN ROLE AT OTTAWA CONFERENCE**

Mr. Sergio Marchi (York West): Mr. Speaker, yesterday's thirteenth ecumenical memorial service in Ottawa commemorating the suffering of the Baltic and Ukrainian nations, and the continued violation of human rights by the Soviet Union, was an emotional reminder of the existence of human oppression. This year's ceremony was all the more special since the conference of experts on human rights is being hosted by Canada in the nation's capital.

Yet while the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Clark) pledged that both he and the Canadian delegation would find ways to press and raise individual cases with the Soviet Union, and with any others violating human rights, this has not occurred. I believe the Government's silence at the conference has been politically questionable, highly regrettable, and morally wrong.

The Canadian delegation must raise these concerns with the Soviets. They must speak up in defence of fundamental human rights, and press the offenders to live up to the Helsinki