

The Council was formed as a private sector group to advise the Minister on a variety of issues affecting fitness and amateur sport. However, it should be noted that the Council has met only once with the Minister since the new administration took office just over a year ago.

I urge the Minister to show that he truly cares about and values the role of the Council, by attempting to convince Mr. Faucher to remain as Chairman, and to re-establish a genuine two-way working relationship with the National Advisory Council. Anything short of this would be an abdication of his ministerial responsibilities.

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SOCIAL SECURITY

FAMILY ALLOWANCES—GOVERNMENT POLICY

Mr. John Parry (Kenora-Rainy River): Mr. Speaker, the 3 per cent deindexation of the family allowance is the first step in the Conservative Government's budget strategy to slash \$600 million from support to Canadian families by 1990. The Minister responsible for the well-being of Canadian families, the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Mr. Epp), informed the House last week that this money was required for a more important purpose, namely, that of deficit reduction.

Last year, however, the Leader of the Government was telling us that family allowances were of a sacred nature. Today, with one in six Canadian families living in poverty, affecting one in five Canadian children, and 42 per cent of Canadian families headed by single parents living below the poverty line, one must ask how the Government can take this action. How can it be said that child allowances must be cut back when amounts such as a billion dollars are still being handed out to a bank?

The Government is sending a clear message by the reductions in family allowance to the people of Canada that, as far as it is concerned, child rearing, parenting, and the development and growth of families are of less concern this year than they were last year, and will be of even less importance by 1990.

The priorities of the Tory Government desperately need to be re-examined.

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NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

CALL FOR INUIT SELF GOVERNMENT

Mr. Thomas Suluk (Nunatsiak): Mr. Speaker, two days from now representatives of all Inuit communities will be meeting in Coppermine to discuss the issue of division as it affects the Northwest Territories. Last spring it was reported by pro-western news reports that the Inuit had scuttled the agreement on an east-west boundary, where the Inuvialuit of the western Arctic would end up in the western territory without their consent. The fact of the matter is that the

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proposed western territory contains the present capital of the territories, Yellowknife, which understandably does not relish losing its status. In effect they said: "If you Inuit in the east wish to have a Government which understands and respects your needs, your languages and your culture, you must give us your oil rich western portion of Nunatsiak in order for us to agree to division".

Since that time, the Inuvialuit of the western Arctic indicated in no uncertain terms their desire to be part of an Arctic territory.

All of us can be self-righteous in denouncing the minority Government of South Africa. Yet, when it comes to our own northern Canadian backyard, we are reluctant to give our own native people—the Inuit who are struggling to retain their own identity against the overwhelming odds of southern cultural inundation—their own territory.

We do not wish to impose upon Canadians and the Government of Canada another Indian problem to plague them over the coming decades. We demand the right to make our own mistakes and to be responsible for our own future within accepted Canadian political systems.

Mr. Speaker: I regret to inform the Hon. Member that his time has expired.

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CAPITAL PUNISHMENT

CALL FOR DECISION ON REINSTATEMENT

Mr. Bob Pennock (Etobicoke North): Mr. Speaker, there is a strong desire by Canadians that this Parliament deal with the issue of capital punishment immediately. Be it a free vote in the House of Commons or even a national referendum, I believe it is important that effective action be taken on this most important issue.

Our Government needs to strengthen the deterrent for murder and other such abhorrent crimes. Over the last year we have witnessed many senseless killings of police officers across Canada. This should underline the need to reappraise our efforts to protect police officers, prison guards, and the Canadian public.

Since the abolition of the death penalty in 1976, more than 50 Private Members Bills have been introduced recommending the reinstatement of capital punishment. In polls taken since 1978, Canadians overwhelmingly have opted for the reinstatement of capital punishment.

One of the arguments that has been presented opposing such legislation focuses on the fact that normal House business would be suspended for an unacceptable period during the debate on this issue. I believe the House should unanimously move to debate this issue during extended hours so as not to disrupt normal House hours. Mr. Speaker, this important issue needs to be dealt with now.