Oral Questions

THE ENVIRONMENT

Mr. Joe Comuzzi (Thunder Bay—Nipigon): Mr. Speaker, the Great Lakes is being threatened by the rampant spread of zebra mussels. This biological contaminant was brought into the Great Lakes system in the ballast waters of ships coming in from outside Canada. Paul Hebert, the head of the Great Lakes Institute at the University of Windsor, said that "from a density that was probably a single animal per square metre two years ago, we are now experiencing over 10,000 animals per square metre. These mollusks pose a great challenge to the Great Lakes. Scientists and engineers expect that it will cost hundreds of millions of dollars to correct this problem.

I am glad that the Minister of the Environment is with us today because it is obviously a problem that must be addressed jointly with our friends in the United States. I implore this government, through its Minister of the Environment, to get on this problem of sea mollusks to preserve the environment of the Great Lakes.

BEEF IMPORTS

Mr. Bob Porter (Medicine Hat): Mr. Speaker, over the past few years the government of Nicaragua has been shipping increased amounts of beef into Canada. As a result of the U.S. embargo in 1985 on products from Nicaragua, exports of beef from that country into Canada have climbed from 3 million pounds in 1986 to 22 million pounds last year. Shipments so far this year have reached 32 million pounds and are expected to go as high as 40 million pounds by the end of the year. Nicaragua is now shipping 92 per cent of its total beef exports to Canada. It has chosen Canada as its only market for beef. The lower price but lower quality imports will cost the Canadian beef industry between \$40 million and \$50 million in lost income. It is apparent that Nicaraguan officials do not wish to co-operate in voluntary restraint of shipments of beef into Canada.

Other signatories to the GATT are not permitting access to this product and Canada is becoming the dumping ground for a lot of the world's excess beef. We have become a victim of our own meat import act. The Canadian industry wishes to be fair traders but imports of this magnitude are not only unfair but are harmful to a

viable Canadian industry, as well as placing our trading relationships with other countries in jeopardy. I think the time is long overdue to carefully consider the measures to be taken before more harm is down to one of the most viable sectors of Canadian agriculture.

EL SALVADOR

Ms. Lynn Hunter (Saanich—Gulf Islands): Mr. Speaker, the barbaric murder of Rev. Ellacuria, the rector at the University of Central America, and five other Jesuits last Thursday is a horrible symbol of the Salvadoran government's approach to ending that country's decade-old civil war. I met Rev. Ellacuria last March when I was in El Salvador. He was a man of God, a man of peace, a man who was playing a key role as a mediator between the government and the FMLN. I, along with all who had hoped for an early political solution to the war, grieve his death.

We should be aware that these murders were not just murders. They were statements. The bodies were mutilated in such a way as to make clear the contempt the military, those who are really running things, have for attempts at thoughtful solutions to the war. The attack at the university is a severe blow to prospects for peace in El Salvador. The deaths of such prominent leaders of the community will make moderation and compromise difficult. There will be no peace in El Salvador while the United States is providing support for the government's atrocities, as well as over \$1 million a day in military assistance.

I call on the Canadian government to condemn the actions of the death squads at the UN Security Council.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

JUSTICE

Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Deputy Prime Minister. On April 27 in this House the Prime Minister said this about the possibility of profit-taking from the leak of the budget: