

rather than the negative side to which the Hon. Member alludes.

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● (1440)

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

HONDURAS—REPORTED ATTACK ON NICARAGUA

Hon. Warren Allmand (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce-Lachine East): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of External Affairs. It was reported today that the CIA funded Contra troops have launched a new concentrated attack into Nicaragua from Honduras in order to capture a major centre and to establish an alternative Government before the signing of the new Contadora peace agreements. For the good of peace in the hemisphere, will the Minister make clear to Honduras and the United States that Canada opposes as does the United States House of Representatives, the funding of these Contra troops which constitutes a violation of the United Nations Charter? Will the Minister request the United States to cease funding the Contras at least until the Contadora process has had a chance to do something about peace?

Would the Minister at the same time withdraw all foreign aid to Honduras until it stops permitting the Contras to use its territory for attacking a neighbour, which is contrary to the U.N. Charter and to the OAS agreements?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for External Affairs): Madam Speaker, the Hon. Member can be assured that Canada has opposed the militarization of Central America. We have expressed those views to the Government of the United States on a number of occasions, and expressed very clearly the Canadian attitude with respect to military and armed forces as a way of seeking a solution. In addition to that, Madam Speaker, we have given very strong support to the efforts of the Contadora group in a number of discussions, because we believe that support for its efforts offers the best solution to the very painful situation which presently prevails.

The Hon. Member has made reference to our support for Honduras. We have reduced our support for a number of Central American countries. We have not yet reached a conclusion with that object in mind with respect to Honduras.

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MARINE TRANSPORT

CN MARINE SAFETY PROCEDURES AND MANNING POLICY

Mr. Les Benjamin (Regina West): Madam Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Transport. Mr. McGrath of the Canadian Brotherhood of Railway Transport and General Workers telexed the Minister on November 18 requesting the Minister to investigate how far CN Marine is putting profit ahead of safety, service, and efficient manning on its four ships

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on the East Coast. The Minister's office acknowledged the telex on November 21, and never answered it. On December 9 Mr. McGrath telexed the Minister again requesting a meeting with the Minister, which telex has not been answered. Has the Minister investigated CN's intention for lay-offs on February 1, 1984? If so, what action has he taken in order to persuade CN not to proceed with that kind of action?

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Minister of Transport): Madam Speaker, I am sorry that the response has not gotten back to the member from the union. We have been holding a number of consultations with railway based unions in the last two or three months. I will certainly look into this particular incident.

I would like to draw to the attention of the Hon. Member that three weeks ago I wrote to the chairman of the board of each of the Crown corporations under my responsibility, indicating to them that I wanted to establish more clear cut policy guidelines relating to labour adjustment and community adjustment problems where there were to be lay-offs due to productivity or technology changes. I would be requiring them to build into their business plan, which they submit to the Government every year, a much clearer expression of the measures that they will take, both in relation to earlier warnings and details of proposed lay-offs, as well as the kind of adjustment measures that would be applied in communities that are affected, as well as in cases of individual workers. I have met with the boards, subject to the rules.

I have not yet met with the CN board to go through this policy. That is scheduled to take place in the new year.

I have established a specific person in my office to work with them to outline in much greater elaboration the kind of policy expectations I would have in order to ensure that any lay-offs would be undertaken with proper notice, care, and adjustment.

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LABOUR CONDITIONS

UNEMPLOYMENT IN BURNABY, B.C.

Mr. Svend J. Robinson (Burnaby): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister. It concerns the most important issue facing my constituents. The latest official unemployment figures from my riding of Burnaby show that there are over 5,000 people collecting unemployment insurance, and many more whose unemployment insurance has run out and are on social assistance, or are young people who are living at home. Over one half of the people affected by this desperate situation are young people under 25, many graduates of SFU, UBC, BCIT, Douglas College, or PVI. How can the Prime Minister justify the shameful failure of the Liberal Government to take immediate, concrete steps to create meaningful, permanent jobs for all Canadians who want work, not welfare?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Madam Speaker, if the Hon. Member had been listening earlier in