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would like to point out that the Canadian Air Transportation Administration should consider the importance of 3,000-foot landing-strips to small villages on the middle and lower North Shore, to Kegaska, La Romaine, Tête-à-la-Baleine and La Tabatière, to help people out of their isolation.

Mr. Speaker, I may add that Quebec has always refused to build roads in this isolated and distant area but I think that after building major regional airports at Blanc-Sablon, la Chèverie, Natashquan and Havre-Saint-Pierre, we should be able to give these isolated communities an adequate air transportation service. Since Quebec continues to delay construction of proper roads in the area, I think the time has come for the Administration to start immediately on the construction of 3,000-foot gravel air strips so that planes of the Otter, Twin Otter and DC-3 type can serve those communities.

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[English]

### OLYMPIC GAMES

#### ANNOUNCED WITHDRAWAL OF SOVIET ATHLETES FROM 1984 GAMES

**Mr. Terry Sargeant (Selkirk-Interlake):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to comment briefly on the regrettable decision of the Soviet Union to withdraw its team from the Los Angeles Olympics. As in 1980, New Democrats oppose such a boycott. At that time my colleague, the Hon. Member for New Westminster-Coquitlam (Miss Jewett), said:

We regret also the decision to single out our athletes to bear personally the total burden of our anger. No comparable sacrifice is asked of others. Furthermore, crippling the games in Moscow probably signs the death warrant of future Olympic Games as well.

The same still holds true, Mr. Speaker. Athletes, many of whom have worked for many years for this one chance, will again be the big losers. Whether they be from countries that participate in the boycott or those who do go, they will never know if they competed against the best.

● (1410)

A second consecutive boycott by a major participant would not bode well for the continued well-being of the international Olympic movement. I call upon the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) to act in the interests of the world's Olympic athletes and of the movement itself, by expressing Canada's displeasure with such a politicization of the Games, and I ask him to call upon Chairman Chernenko to reconsider his nation's decision to withdraw, and on President Reagan to give his personal guarantee ensuring the total security of the Soviet team.

[Translation]

### SHIPBUILDING

#### REQUEST FOR SUBSIDIES

**Mr. Louis Duclos (Montmorency-Orléans):** Mr. Speaker, Davie Shipbuilding in Lauzon Quebec City, which formerly employed more than 2,500 workers, now has hardly 1,500 employees and may have only a few hundred left by the end of 1984, if the company fails to get substantial orders in the next few months. However, one wonders how this shipyard will be able to get the contracts it needs, if nothing is done very soon to make it competitive once more. And competitive it must be, otherwise it will never be able to hire back the hundreds of workers it has had to lay off in recent months. However, to become competitive, it must modernize facilities and equipment, at whatever cost. Since the requisite investment cannot be made without Government assistance, I urge the Government, and more specifically the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion, to approve the application for a subsidy of nearly \$9 million submitted not long ago by Davie Shipbuilding, a company whose operations are vital to the economic well-being of the Quebec City area.

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[English]

### AGRICULTURE

#### PLIGHT OF MANITOBA FARMERS

**Mr. Jack Murta (Lisgar):** Mr. Speaker, according to a recent survey by the farm newspaper *Manitoba Co-Operator*, an estimated 200 farmers in my home province have not been able to obtain enough credit to put in a crop for this year. As well, the survey reveals that 350 Manitoba farmers have left farming during the last two to three years for reasons other than retirement. This figure has been given credibility by current Canadian Wheat Board statistics on permit books. According to the Board, permit holders in Manitoba have declined by 490 since 1980. These two revealing statistics are but the tip of the iceberg. Last year Manitoba had a record 62 farm bankruptcies, up 106 per cent over 1982.

Another area of concern which further highlights the severity of economic conditions facing the western farmer is the report by the Farm Credit Corporation which says that arrears on loans owed to the FCC by Manitoba farmers have increased by more than 50 per cent. In fact the increase this year alone amount of \$14,660,000, \$5 million more than in 1983.

What will it take for the Government to understand the immediate needs of the western farmer? The recent announcement of pay-outs in the fall under the Grain Stabilization Act is much too late. Payments late in the year will not assist those farmers presently faced with a cash flow problem. Interim payments are needed before the end of the summer, and I urge the Government to take action now.