

The future of our primary producers is bleak. Farmers who have never owed a cent in their lives now tell me that they cannot even pay their bills. They are in serious trouble and in danger of losing their farms.

We grow the best seed potatoes in the world but we cannot even sell those. Our marketing techniques are outdated. The Europeans are capturing all of our markets.

How does the Government respond to this depressing situation? It hits them when they are down, with inspection fees, increased fuel prices, and a user pay policy.

This country needs a policy that shows respect for our primary producers. We do not need a policy that puts them out of business. We need to beef up our marketing techniques. Farmers need national marketing boards to guarantee them at least the cost of production. The Government must act immediately.

The family farm is disappearing, farmers are going bankrupt, and the Government is doing nothing about it.

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APARTHEID

SOUTH AFRICA—CANADIAN UNIVERSITY INVESTMENTS

Mr. Howard McCurdy (Windsor-Walkerville): Mr. Speaker, today we celebrate the 37th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Thus it seems an appropriate time to reflect briefly upon the referenda being held on university campuses on disinvestment of pension funds in South Africa.

I am shocked that members of some university faculty associations, faced with the moral choice, have determined to settle the matter by referendum. On reflection, however, I should not be surprised. The issue of apartheid is not whether it kills and oppresses millions only because of the colour of their skin. It is essentially whether there exists the moral fortitude to reject the perpetuation of the moral equivalent of slavery when what is at stake is corporate or individual financial gain.

Doubtless there will be those who find solace in the argument that sanctions such as disinvestment will hurt blacks more than comfortable profitable neutrality. They will have few qualms in disregarding the assertion by leaders of the front line states or by 73 per cent of black South Africans that sanctions, including disinvestment, will damage them less than the other sacrifices demanded by the fight for freedom.

There is no moral dilemma. It is a question of justice for others or profit for oneself. The moral choice is clear. The ultimate victory of the oppressed is assured. They who value profits over human justice will ultimately lose, not only virtue, but profits.

S.O. 22

[Translation]

INCOME TAX

INTRODUCTION OF MINIMUM TAX

Mr. Jean-Guy Guilbault (Drummond): Mr. Speaker, this Government is keeping a major campaign promise by introducing a minimum personal income tax effective January 1, 1986. This measure is another key element of our economic renewal program. In fact, this formula reflects, in a very sensible and effective way, the principle of equity on which our economic policy is based. Its purpose is to ensure that every year, high income Canadians bear their fair share of the tax burden.

This minimum tax on the rich is aimed at taxpayers with very high incomes, who will no longer be able to escape paying income tax, and at large corporations that will no longer get tax rebates upon the sale of assets. This reform of the tax system will make the system more equitable and provide for stronger economic growth.

The Bill presented by the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson) is aimed at closing a tax loophole that made it possible for thousands of citizens well versed in the art of claiming tax deductions to avoid paying income tax.

The Government is also aware that existing tax incentives were introduced for valid economic and social reasons. Consequently, Mr. Speaker, the minimum tax will have a carry-forward mechanism to ensure that the value of tax incentive deductions and credit is not lost.

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[English]

HUMAN RIGHTS

CALL FOR APPLICATION TO BALTIC STATES AND UKRAINE

Mr. Alan Redway (York East): Mr. Speaker, 40 years ago the Baltic states of Latvia, Estonia, and Lithuania were annexed by the Soviet Union.

Three years later and 37 years ago today, on December 10, 1948, the General Assembly of the United Nations unanimously adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. That Declaration calls upon all of the United Nations member states, including the Soviet Union, to guarantee to every human being freedom of opinion and expression; freedom of thought, conscience and religion; freedom from torture or cruel or degrading treatment or punishment; freedom of movement; freedom from arbitrary arrest and detention; right to a fair trial; the right to a public hearing by an independent and impartial tribunal; the right to be presumed innocent until proven guilty, and the right to a nationality.

● (1405)

Thirty-seven years later the people of Latvia, Estonia, and Lithuania and the people of the Ukraine are still waiting for