

My friends on the parliamentary sub-committee who looked at pretty well every prison in Canada could warn those people who are living in Mexico that if they think they are coming back to a sort of heaven on earth in a Canadian maximum security prison, they have a surprise in store. We do not have anything to write home about in regard to our prison system and the way offenders are treated in our maximum security prisons.

In any event, we will receive applications from Canadian offenders abroad. I would like to see a more aggressive approach by the Department of External Affairs to expand the number of countries involved in the treaties. The schedule lists the United States and Mexico, and I am sure more countries are involved. It seems to me that the Department of External Affairs should take a message from the speed with which we are willing to pass this legislation and adopt it into the law and make sure that they have treaties with countries all over the world so that the exchanges can be effected.

I do not want to take a lot of the time of the House on this, Mr. Speaker. This party has no amendments to submit at this point and will co-operate in every way to achieve speedy passage of the bill so that offenders have a chance to have their families visit them in Canada. It seems to me that the major asset of the bill is that the chance of rehabilitation is perhaps a little better in Canada because of the family situation. If the bill goes to committee I hope we can expedite it there. I am sure the hon. member for Perth-Wilmot and I could agree on moving it through committee expeditiously.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier): Is the House ready for the question?

Some hon. Members: Question.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier): Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the said motion?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Motion agreed to, bill read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs.

[Translation]

Mr. Yvon Pinard (Parliamentary Secretary to President of Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, since it is almost four o'clock, I presume there is unanimous consent to proceed now with private members' business, and I would therefore request unanimous consent so we may move to notice of motion No. 5, the hon. member for Egmont (Mr. MacDonald). I also call for unanimous consent to stand notice No. 4.

[English]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier): Hon. members have heard the Parliamentary Secretary to President of Privy Council recommend that we move to motion No. 5. Is this agreed?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Food Aid

PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS

[English]

FOOD

ADVISABILITY OF PROVIDING INTERNATIONAL AID

Mr. David MacDonald (Egmont) moved:

That, in the opinion of this House, the government should consider the advisability of providing (a) international food aid at the annual level at least equal in nutritional value to the amount by which Canadians consume more than the world's average *per capita* protein diet (b) international agricultural development assistance at an annual level at least equal to the gross revenues accruing to Canada from the world arms trade and the vigorous advancement of these initiatives for adoption and implementation by the United Nations.

Mr. Paproski: Mr. Speaker, much as I would appreciate seconding the hon. member's motion, I think the seconder is the hon. member for Edmonton-Strathcona (Mr. Roche).

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier): There will be a correction. The seconder of the motion is Mr. Roche.

Mr. MacDonald (Egmont): Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to have the opportunity to speak to this motion, which I assume is one of the more unique motions on the order paper for this session. It brings together the issue of food needs, domestic and global, as well as the growing concern of the world toward the problem of disarmament and the international arms trade.

I do not want to speak at great length this afternoon. First of all, I would not be permitted to under the rules; second, I think it is important that as many members as possible express their view on what I think is a linking of two of the critical issues that face us in the late 1970s. Members from all sides have heard a good deal about global famine and world food needs in the past few years. Our memories do not have to be very long to recall the important world food conference that took place in 1974, at a time of world preoccupation with famine and massive international food shortages.

The fact that we are raising this issue again seems more consistent with the long term concern for the world food issue than the present situation. I think it is best summed up in the September 1977 issue of *The Economist* in an article entitled "While the Wheat is High". If some hon. members have read that story or others like it over the past few months, they will realize that the food cycle has come around to the point where we now have overproduction, at least in terms of endangerment of the domestic markets of countries like our own that engage in fairly large sales of wheat abroad.

● (1602)

Obviously between 1972 and 1974 we were in the midst of a food crisis. Unprecedented declines in production reduced food stocks to perilously low levels and drew attention to underlying factors such as the removal of land from production in some developed countries and the growing food dependence of those countries least developed.

I recall this, Mr. Speaker, because it is important to realize that there has been a cyclical phenomenon here. For the past