

S.O. 21

once that Canadian people are more important than technology?

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

COMMEMORATION OF SOVIET-INDUCED FAMINE IN UKRAINE

Mr. Gilbert Parent (Welland): Madam Speaker, over the weekend I had the occasion to have discussions with Canadians of Ukrainian origin. After hearing the facts they put before me, I believe that between seven million and ten million Ukrainians were starved to death on the orders of the Government of the U.S.S.R. during the deliberately organized famine of 1932-1933. The Government of the U.S.S.R. directed a special annihilation policy aimed at the destruction of the Ukrainian nation, thereby committing genocide as defined by the U.N. Genocide Convention.

Canadians of Ukrainian and other origins from behind the Iron Curtain commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Soviet-induced famine in the Ukraine. I ask the Department of External Affairs to make representations to the United Nations requesting official recognition of the 1933 famine in order to provide future generations with permanent documentation of this premeditated genocide. Further, on this sorrowful anniversary of the Ukrainian holocaust, I ask that the Government of Canada increase its assistance to hunger-stricken countries anywhere in the world, regardless of political or economic affiliation, in order to avoid repetition of a fate similar to that suffered by millions of Ukrainians in the peaceful years of 1932 and 1933.

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VIA RAIL

PLEA FOR RESTORATION OF TORONTO-HAVELOCK SERVICE

Mr. Bill Domm (Peterborough): Madam Speaker, the Minister of Transport (Mr. Axworthy) has justifiably questioned the wisdom of the 1981 Via Rail service cuts. This comes as no surprise to members of the Opposition since the Canadian Transport Commission recommended that Via Rail service be continued until the completion of a full hearing. This recommendation echoed the advice of the Railway Transport Committee which concluded: "Accordingly, it is the decision of the Committee that, pending the outcome of this further review, the Toronto-Havelock service shall not be discontinued."

What is surprising, however, is the Minister's plan to re-establish Via Rail service on the Winnipeg to Edmonton line, a line which just happens to be in his riding. This represents an act of political appeasement contrived in an attempt to retain the Minister's seat in western Canada.

It should be noted that the Minister said he is restoring the Winnipeg to Edmonton line because, and I quote the Minister, "I don't believe Via can just be a corridor railway," adding that, "it has to service transportation needs." I remind the

Minister that Peterborough once had the use of the six daily passenger trains which serviced the Havelock-Toronto route and, with the stroke of a pen, his predecessor abolished the last train on that route by an Order in Council, against the wishes of the Canadian Transport Commission and without any public inquiry. It is blatantly obvious that, should the Minister refuse to open hearings on the Toronto-Havelock Via service, crass politics are at work in his mind.

Madam Speaker: Order, please. The time allotted to the Hon. Member has expired.

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INDUSTRY

WHITE FARM EQUIPMENT LTD.—SEVERANCE PAY OWED EMPLOYEES

Mr. Derek Blackburn (Brant): Madam Speaker, after several years of financial difficulty, White Farm Equipment Limited appears to be close to liquidation in one form or another. It is a tragedy that this historic company, once known as Cockshutt Plough Company, will in all likelihood cease to exist as a company.

In human terms it is an even greater tragedy that 900 employees, many of whom have worked for the company for many years, will find their jobs terminated. This will be yet another severe blow to the economic wellbeing of the City of Brantford.

I fully appreciate that the Government is not to blame for the chaotic financial condition in which the company finds itself, but in view of the fact that the Government of Canada guaranteed bank loans to the company in the amount of about \$6 million, and in the interest of common decency, I prevail upon the Government to honour the company's financial commitments to its employees, namely, to guarantee the \$3 million in severance pay to White Farm Equipment employees, to guarantee that all vacation pay and all other outstanding benefits owed to the employees will be paid to them, and to make every effort to find other meaningful employment for the 900 White Farm Equipment employees in Brantford.

I would also ask the Government to form a task force comprised of labour, management, and farmers to look into the future viability of the Canadian farm implement industry. If the Government can help the banks, then surely the Government can help those employees. I ask for nothing more and nothing less than simple justice.

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EDUCATION

FEES CHARGED TO FOREIGN STUDENTS AT CANADIAN UNIVERSITIES

Mr. Stanley Hudecki (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of National Defence): Madam Speaker, the fees charged to foreign students studying at Canadian universities is a matter