

S.O. 21

matters as Canadian sales and give-aways of military equipment to Turkey, the major power of the eastern Mediterranean.

For Greeks, also, the joy of their own independence will not be complete while Cyprus, which shares language, religion, and culture with them, remains under Turkish occupation. Canada's contribution in this regard, however, has been meritorious in helping to keep the peace.

Since Greece is the country which took the first steps to democracy, its fate has a special meaning for all of us, and the Greek National Day is an international day.

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[Translation]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

TRAGIC MURDER OF FATHER ARSENAULT

Mr. Darryl L. Gray (Bonaventure-Îles-de-la-Madeleine): Mr. Speaker, in the night of March 21 to March 22, an exceptional man from the Gaspé died in Honduras.

Father Arsenault had lived for twenty-one years in Honduras, where he was working to give the poor and children without homes a better life.

His dedication to the cause of needy children, together with his religious vocation, have made him a shining example of goodness and courage for the people of the Gaspé and for all Canadians.

Whatever the cause of his death, Mr. Speaker, it is a tremendous loss for Honduras, and especially for his family and friends in the riding of Bonaventure-Îles-de-la-Madeleine.

I am sure I express the feeling of my colleagues when I hope that his example will give other Canadians the desire to get involved and help the children of this world.

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THE ECONOMY

GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE

Mr. Nic Leblanc (Longueuil): Mr. Speaker, I would like to point out to the House that the action taken by this Government has brought about some very encouraging results for our economy.

During the last twelve months, that is, since February 1985, 62,000 jobs were created in the Montreal area alone.

The value of construction permits increased 12 per cent in 1985. This represents \$208 million in additional revenue for the construction industry in Montreal.

The volume of retail sales has increased 10 per cent since our Government was elected in September 1984.

In 1985, construction starts reached one of their highest levels.

In January 1986, 27 per cent more homes were being built than in 1985.

Mr. Speaker, this proves Canadians chose wisely when they elected our Government in September 1984.

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● (1405)

[English]

EXTERNAL AID

ETHIOPIA—NEED FOR NEW CANADIAN PROGRAM

Mr. Jim Manly (Cowichan-Malahat-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, as one of four Members of Parliament who visited Ethiopia last week, I want to remind Canadians that the danger of famine has not passed. The worst of the drought may be over, but six million people, still at risk, will need emergency food aid in the coming months.

Over the past 18 months Canadians gave important help to the famine victims, but the mandate of David MacDonald, Emergency Co-ordinator for Assistance, expires the end of this month.

The Government must act now to announce a new program so that Canadians can continue to help the people of Ethiopia. In addition to providing emergency aid, Canada should announce a program of development assistance in such areas as education, health, agriculture, and forestry.

We can help the people of Ethiopia not only to survive the famine but also to become self-sufficient.

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WORKERS' SAFETY

CHALLENGE TO DEVELOP BETTER ARCTIC WORK BOOTS

Mr. Dave Nickerson (Western Arctic): Mr. Speaker, in a recent submission to Government, Mr. Jim Evoy of the Construction and General Workers Union stated:

No matter what the rules say, men and women working outside when the temperature is minus 45 degrees find the steel-toed boot far too uncomfortable to wear. People don't wear those boots when it is very cold outside, and thus end up working without any protective footwear at all.

Judging it not to be beyond human ingenuity, I hereby challenge the footwear manufacturers of Canada to develop a certifiable protective boot for Arctic conditions which is also warm and comfortable. No longer should northern workers have to face the uneasy choice between having their toes either crushed or frozen.