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DISARMAMENT

UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY SPECIAL SESSION

Mr. Reginald Stackhouse (Scarborough West): Mr. Speaker, today the General Assembly of the United Nations enters the third week of a special session on disarmament. It has received little attention but should have received much.

● (1410)

The need for arms control is one of the world's paramount needs when the world's annual budget for armaments is \$1 trillion. The cost of human lives since the end of World War II has been 20 million killed in 81 localized wars. Some Governments in the Third World, like Ethiopia, prefer to use their slender resources to feed and arm their soldiers while people starve.

Escalation of arms acquisitions first by the Soviet Union, later by the United States, and then by the Third World, has destroyed many hopes that much could be done to turn this around. In recent times the Moscow Summit has given the world a new hope that the accelerating race to destruction can be halted.

We should not make the simple assumption that the surest way to peace is through disarmament alone. The history of past debates on disarmament shows the folly of thinking that there is any such magic wand.

We can believe that the time is coming when the increase of armed forces may be reduced and Governments can realize that being poised to destroy one another is not the only option open to them.

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MARINE TRANSPORT

BRITISH COLUMBIA CRUISE SHIP INDUSTRY

Ms. Margaret Mitchell (Vancouver East): Mr. Speaker, consider the sad plight of the junior Minister of Transport from British Columbia, left on the sidelines in the dispute which has erupted on the West Coast over the threat posed by Bill C-52 to the passenger cruise industry in British Columbia.

Last Friday the Parliamentary Secretary to the real Minister of Transport (Mr. Thacker) gave this House a completely unqualified assurance that all problems have been resolved. He ignored comments of the President of the Treasury Board (Miss Carney) who admitted there is a problem but she would straighten it out with the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson). The junior Minister of Transport merely told the industry "Trust us".

However, the B.C. Chamber of Shipping which came to Ottawa today to meet with B.C. Members has a different opinion. It continues to be very worried about Bill C-52 because the Bill may jeopardize the cruise ship industry which

brings \$70 million in direct income to British Columbia. It wants amendments to the Bill.

I call on the Government to listen carefully to west coast representatives and review Bill C-52, and bring in possible amendments to preserve this vital west coast industry.

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PRIVACY

GOVERNMENT'S INTENTION TO PHASE OUT USE OF SOCIAL INSURANCE NUMBERS

Mr. Bill Tupper (Nepean—Carleton): Mr. Speaker, the President of the Treasury Board (Miss Carney) responding to the report of the parliamentary Justice Committee and the concern of parliamentarians announced last week the Government's intention to restrict the use of the social insurance number in federal institutions. Over the next five years, the use of the social insurance number will be phased out and its use restricted to the administration of tax, pension and social benefit programs.

Many Canadians felt and feel threatened by the use of the social insurance number as a universal identifier, beyond the purpose for which it was originally intended. I am pleased the Government is taking steps to reverse this trend. The Consumers Association of Canada has hailed this Treasury Board decision as good for Canadians.

This Government cares about individual privacy. I hope that other levels of government and the private sector will follow our example and restrict the use of the social insurance number. Let us "SIN" no more!

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INDIAN AFFAIRS

MILITARY CATERING CONTRACT DENIED TO KETTLE POINT BAND

Mr. Keith Penner (Cochrane—Superior): Mr. Speaker, the road to economic self-sufficiency is full of obstacles for Indian bands. An example is the experience of the Kettle Point Band in southwestern Ontario which has been trying for the past three years to win a food catering contract at the military base located near to it.

In 1985 the band established the Stoney Kettle Management Company and built up the necessary management and staff through government training programs and the local college. In 1985 and 1986 it lost the contracts because its bids were not the lowest. This year its bid was the lowest but it did not get the contract. Why, Sir? Because the criteria had suddenly and inexplicably changed. The band was told it did not meet the experience requirements.