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would use his "good offices" to influence the President of the National Hockey League, John Ziegler, and help Saskatchewan and Saskatoon get an NHL franchise. Now I do not know what the Prime Minister's "good offices" amount to, but whatever they are I ask him to use them quickly.

Yesterday, Louis Susman, a prominent sports lawyer, flew to New York with an offer from a Vancouver businessman to buy the St. Louis Blues. There are other offers being prepared as well. Without a doubt Susman will be carrying a proposal, and because the NHL needs to find an owner for the Blues he will probably make a deal quickly.

The Mayor of Saskatoon, Cliff Wright, and his associates are working hard and are continuing to build the provincial base that is necessary to put the team on a firm financial footing.

The NHL seems not to understand that hockey fans in the Province of Saskatchewan are like the Saskatchewan Roughriders' football fans; they drive any distance, whether it is 50, 100, 200 or 300 kilometres, to support the team.

Once again my plea is for the little people, the ordinary hockey fan who has little or no power in the business world of professional sports, the person who frequently has given up belief that anybody really cares about his or her wishes. Saskatchewan fans feel that they are the soul of hockey. They know that their Province has been the home and the training ground of generations of professional players. None have had the opportunity to support their own professional team. In the Saskatoon Blues, this is a real possibility. So I ask that whatever will be done by the good offices of the Prime Minister be done quickly and well.

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[Translation]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

ISRAELI-ARAB CONFLICT—APOLOGIES TENDERED BY MEMBER FOR LAURIER FOR CERTAIN REMARKS

Mr. David Berger (Laurier): Madam Speaker, I would like to apologize to the Senate Committee for some rather heated remarks I made yesterday. I also wish to apologize to Mayor Freij of Bethlehem who has been saying for ten years that the Palestinians on the West Bank want to live in peace with Israel.

[English]

I made my comments somewhat out of frustration, because many of the questions in the committee yesterday dealt with various aspects of the military government on the West Bank, and I feel they painted somewhat of an unfair picture. For example, one of the members of the committee expressed his dismay that Mayor Freij could not display the flag of the PLO in his office. No one mentioned, however, that the PLO flag is anathema to all Israelis, that it represents a terrorist organization which is committed to destroying Israel, which has killed hundreds of innocent citizens and has gloried in those deaths.

It is perhaps the flag of Mayor Freij. It is also the flag of Hawatmeh, Jibril, Abu Nidal and Habash.

● (1410)

Military rule is cruel, Madam Speaker, but I thought that there was little understanding yesterday of the fact that Israel has been in a state of war for 35 years, that it is faced by 21 Arab countries with a population of over 100 million people—

Madam Speaker: Order, please.

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POLITICAL PARTIES

NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY'S VOTES AGAINST GOVERNMENT'S SPENDING ESTIMATES

Mr. Scott Fennell (Ontario): Madam Speaker, to be critical of Government spending is one thing, especially when one is a good Conservative. But last night Members of the NDP voted against all of the Estimates and their ideologies. They voted against the Federal Business Development Bank which gives direct support to small business, and they voted against the Farm Loans Interest Rebate Act which keeps farms from going under. Last night Members of the NDP voted against job creation.

At a time when Canada's commitment to NATO is a disgrace and the Government has quite rightly tried to make use of the defence industry as a means of job creation, the NDP Members withheld support. They voted against the Petroleum Incentives Program which would create jobs in oil exploration. Worse still, on the Main Estimates they voted against the administrative expenses of the Farm Credit Corporation, CMHC and mortgage assistance, and welfare, and Unemployment Insurance. At least the Conservatives realize, Madam Speaker, that someone has to type up the forms or write the cheques which provide the assistance.

What does this mean? Simply this: By their actions last night the Members of the NDP have proved beyond a doubt that their ideology is shakier than their showing in the Gallup polls and, if possible, shakier than their support among the electorate.

Madam Speaker: I would just like to warn the Hon. Member that at some point in his statement, though not throughout the whole of it, I think he was reflecting on a vote, and that is not allowed.

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[Translation]

NATIONAL PARKS

ACQUISITION OF MINGAN ARCHIPELAGO

Mr. André Maltais (Manicouagan): Madam Speaker, I would like to transmit to the House the best wishes of the people of Havre-Saint-Pierre, Longue-Pointe-de-Mingan,