

industry will not be able to absorb this additional cost. The loss of jobs and eventually the demise of the industry will be the result.

The government has not listened to the industry officials. Today the minister tried yet another smokescreen, the elimination of the existing .8 per cent federal agricultural levy on pari mutuel betting. Removing this levy while still implementing the GST will in no way lessen the damage suffered by the industry.

I strongly urge this government to withdraw the GST and go back to the drawing board.

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UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACT

Mr. Ken James (Sarnia—Lambton): Mr. Speaker, on November 6, some 43 days ago, the duly elected members of this House passed the unemployment insurance bill, Bill C-21, a bill which would strengthen the ability of the UI program to act as an effective economic safety net, allow for more skills training and help Canadian workers better adjust to change.

Since that time, however, a group of non-elected Liberal senators have once again got caught up in another attempt to thwart the efforts of this government, look for loopholes in the rules and intentionally delay the legislation and demonstrate their political muscle.

Yet, where do the interests of the unemployed in Canada's poorer regions fit in? A distant second, it would seem. For these individuals the extra four week requirement could prove to be devastating, especially in light of the combination of other problems which they face.

• (1410)

I call upon all Liberal members opposite to urge their Senate colleagues to get on with it, to pass this much needed legislation and start putting the needs of Canadians in our poorer regions before this unnecessary self-interest and political showmanship.

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POVERTY

Ms. Joy Langan (Mission—Coquitlam): Mr. Speaker, I would have liked to have put a cheerful face on my statement in keeping with this joyful season. But, as members of Parliament head home to feast, I ask them to consider images of starving children in the Third

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World and developing countries lining up to receive life-saving food that Canada has sent. And we feel satisfied with our generosity.

Consider that close to one million Canadian children live in poverty. In this season of giving Canadians give to the hundreds of food banks across Canada to help these kids have a decent meal during the holidays. And we feel satisfied with our generosity.

I ask hon. members in this House to consider the other 364 days a year that these one million Canadian kids go to school and play while hungry. We cannot be satisfied with our generosity while one child is hungry and living in poverty. Consider this Christmas, as we give thanks for our good fortune, ways in which we can work together in this House toward eradicating poverty in 1990.

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[Translation]

BILL C-21—UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACT

Mr. Guy Saint-Julien (Abitibi): Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister of Canada asked in the House that the Senate pass Bill C-21 on unemployment insurance reform as quickly as possible, and he condemned the obstructionist tactics of the Liberal senators who have a majority in the other place.

This bill will make it possible to allocate \$800 million to manpower training programs. It increases the number of weeks of employment required to be eligible for benefits and also reduces the number of benefit weeks. The CNTU approves provisions that increase maternity benefits and benefits for workers aged 65 and over.

Mr. Speaker, once again, the uncalled for obstruction by certain Liberal senators in the other place is totally unacceptable.

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[English]

ROMANIA

Mrs. Christine Stewart (Northumberland): Mr. Speaker, daily we hear of dramatic changes in central and east European countries which bring new freedom, hope for justice and peace to the region. However, Romania remains intransigent in its Fascist repression of its people under the leadership of the dictator, President Ceausescu. We are all alarmed at the present news of the violence in Timisoara, Romania, reminiscent, in fact, of