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AGRICULTURE

Mr. Vic Althouse (Mackenzie): Mr. Speaker, every year since 1985 this government has been promising a disaster program for farmers. There is no mention of such a program in the crop insurance legislation that was introduced last month. There does not seem to have been any serious discussion with the provinces. *Ad hoc* programs have been used recently for drought and flooding.

I urge the government and its Alberta counterparts to provide assistance immediately to farmers with snow covered crops in the Peace River block.

I realize this will cost money and Conservatives want to cut their spending on agriculture. Cuts have been made to fuel tax rebates, research and crop insurance. There is no more two-price wheat or interest-free cash advances. There is no more special grains program, even though U.S. efforts to force down world grain prices are being stepped up.

About 300,000 acres of crop lie under the snow in northern Alberta. Some may yet be salvaged, but all farmers will lose a great deal of money due to the rain and snow during harvest. These farmers need action from this government now.

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[Translation]

THE CHILDREN'S WISH FOUNDATION OF
CANADA

Mr. Marcel R. Tremblay (Québec-Est): Mr. Speaker, last November I had the pleasure of visiting the well-known Children's Wish Foundation in Quebec City, whose headquarters are located in my riding.

Mr. Speaker, I must admit I was very moved to see how some people were able to make dreams come true for children who are terminally ill, doing so with minimal financial resources.

Fulfilling these dreams is not easy. It takes a lot of love, dedication and determination, and it is being done by volunteers who work very hard for these children who are becoming increasingly helpless. Mr. Speaker, we all have basic needs that must be met, children most of all.

The two people who started this dream project, Edith and Pierre Letarte, deserve our admiration for the warmth and comfort they offer the children and, through them, their parents.

Mr. Speaker, in concluding I would urge people who have a few hours or a few dollars to spare to give generously and make this dream part of their lives as well.

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[English]

ROMANIA

Ms. Barbara Greene (Don Valley North): Mr. Speaker, I have recently returned from a trip to Romania sponsored by the Unitarian Universalist Church. We found there a courageous people who are determined that the thousands who have martyred themselves to overthrow the vicious and sadistic reign of Ceausescu shall not have died in vain.

Romanians need our help to re-enter the world they had been shut out of. No other East Bloc nation has suffered so much or been so sadly deprived of basic human rights.

I strongly urge the Secretary of State for External Affairs and the cabinet to offer generous support and assistance to the Romanian people and to the interim government in the implementation of their 10-point program.

We should also clearly indicate that long-term aid and trade relations will be subject to the implementation of democracy and the adherence to international human rights treaties.

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HUMAN RIGHTS

Mrs. Beryl Gaffney (Nepean): Mr. Speaker, last evening I met with 75 Iranian exiles currently participating in a world-wide hunger strike protesting human rights violations in Iran, this at a time when the United Nations representative, Mr. Pohl, is presently in Iran to investigate charges of widespread torture and execution of political prisoners.

Reportedly more than 90,000 Iranian political prisoners, including juveniles, have been executed in the past eight years. Last year alone one mass execution claimed the lives of 12,000.