

S. O. 31

[*Translation*]

Mr. Speaker, this system is turning out to be an expensive proposition for Quebec because the province has to assume financial responsibility for the refugees. More especially, the system is discouraging immigrants from integrating the majority in Quebec. The minister must take immediate action because these policies—

Mr. Speaker: I regret to interrupt the hon. member but his time has expired.

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TRIBUTE TO YVON DOLBEC

Mr. Marcel R. Tremblay (Québec-Est): Mr. Speaker, I take this opportunity to tell members of the House about the 1990 award of the Quebec chapter of the Canadian Institute of International Affairs.

Mr. Speaker, the year's winner of this major award is Mr. Yvon Dolbec, founding president of Dolbec Logistique international Inc. Mr. Dolbec is well known for his outstanding contribution to international trade growth throughout Quebec and, more specifically, for his role in promoting international trade. This warm-hearted, dynamic and extremely generous man is the very image of the professional who devotes himself to the betterment of the community.

Mr. Speaker, I extend to him my sincere congratulations for winning this award, and I wish him many more years of success in international affairs.

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[*English*]

WORLD FOOD DAY

Mrs. Christine Stewart (Northumberland): Mr. Speaker, today, World Food Day, Canadians are asked to stop and consider what so many of us take for granted: our daily bread.

We must remember that hundreds of thousands of Canadians, half of whom are children, go hungry each day and that our farmers who produce our basic food needs are less and less able to survive. Short-sighted government policies which fail to support our farmers can destroy our country's food production security, and

polices which do not provide adequate nourishment to all Canadians will bankrupt us in future social costs.

World-wide the situation is even more serious. The discomfort of seeing the pitiful images of starving, emaciated children and adults must overwhelm us into action.

In Canada we must start by assuring security of Canadian food supply and production. This government must guarantee that our farmers will be protected in the current trade negotiations at the GATT. Each Canadian must understand the links between food consumption and environmental degradation and develop green, environmentally friendly habits.

Last, but not least, this government and all Canadians must strive to assure by policy and action that every human being is guaranteed his or her daily bread as a basic human right.

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IMMIGRATION

Mr. Dan Heap (Trinity—Spadina): Mr. Speaker, the refugee backlog system in Canada has broken down.

Even with the increased budget and staff taken from regular immigration, it cannot process all 100,000 persons in the time the minister promised. Twenty-one months later only one quarter have received decisions. Of those accepted less than three per cent have been landed and allowed to apply to bring their spouses and children, which will likely take another two years.

A mental health study shows that 58 per cent of these claimants suffer declining mental health since they came to our land because of our government's delay. This is cruel and inhuman treatment, torture, according to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which Canada signed.

The great majority of our backlog came over three years ago from notoriously refugee producing countries such as Sri Lanka, Iran or El Salvador. Our government discriminates against them by forcing the most recent claimants from the Caribbean to jump the queue for examination first.

Shame on this government for continuing the torture of persons who came to Canada to escape from cruel and inhuman treatment at home.