

[English]

TAX REFORM

VIEWS OF TOURISM INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION OF CANADA

Mr. Stan Darling (Parry Sound—Muskoka): Mr. Speaker, a delegation representing Canada's \$22 billion tourism industry appeared before the House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs this morning. On behalf of the 60,000 businesses employing over one million people, the Tourism Industry Association of Canada offered its input on the White Paper on Tax Reform. While TIAC is generally pleased with the proposed reform, it voiced some concern in specific areas.

From the outset the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson) promised to consult the people of Canada prior to drafting legislation, and this he has done. After the auto industry, the tourism industry is the largest earner of foreign exchange in Canada, drawing \$6 billion from beyond our borders. Canada must continue to be considered an ideal international tourist destination. I am confident the Minister would never place this reputation in jeopardy.

He is acutely aware that Canada suffers from an annual \$2 billion tourism deficit. For that reason TIAC and this Government will continue to try to convince Canadians there is no better place for a vacation than here at home. Members of this Government heard the association's concerns loud and clear. TIAC can rest assured that the industry will be vibrant and prosperous as Canada heads into the 21st century.

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INDIAN AFFAIRS

HOUSING SHORTAGES ON RESERVES

Mr. Rod Murphy (Churchill): Mr. Speaker, as the Member for Churchill I am deeply concerned about the horrendous shortage of adequate shelter in the native communities of northern Manitoba. In this, the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless, the federal Government should be especially ashamed of this deplorable situation. How can we say we are treating our aboriginal people fairly when we see this level of neglect on the part of the federal Government?

In one reserve in my riding 250 people out of 674, or over one-third, are in desperate need of shelter. In Shamattawa there are only 90 houses for over 670 people. The people cannot even get replacements for nine houses destroyed by fire over the last two years.

I call upon the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (Mr. McKnight) to rectify this horrid situation. It is his responsibility, as well as that of his Government, to help ensure these Canadians receive adequate shelter. I know all Members would agree with the UN Charter of Human

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Rights which says it is the right of every human being to have access to adequate shelter.

I call once again upon the Minister to live up to his obligation and address the crisis facing my constituents, and native people across the nation. Adequate housing is something that our native children deserve.

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ABORTION

SURVIVAL OF PREMATURELY BORN BABIES

Mr. Jim Jepson (London East): Mr. Speaker, Canadians have recently been made aware of the survival of two remarkably premature infants. One was born only 141 days after conception, while the other after only 145 days. This is about half the normal gestation period. Each weighed slightly over one pound. I am sure we can all rejoice with the parents of these two tiny human beings.

Unfortunately, Canada's abortion law would have allowed the aborting of both those children who were born after 20 weeks gestation. Statistics Canada records that in 1985, 1,815 babies between the ages of 17 and 20 weeks were killed in Canadian hospitals, and an astonishing 181 were killed after the twentieth week.

The survival of these two tiny infants is testimony to the fact that human life is a continuum that begins with conception, not birth. Those babies aborted are no less human than those born, regardless of the gestational age at which the event takes place. Abortion kills a pre-born human life in the earliest stages of development. It does not simply "terminate a pregnancy".

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CAPE BRETON DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

REQUEST THAT STOCKPILING OF COAL BE STOPPED

Mr. Russell MacLellan (Cape Breton—The Sydneys): Mr. Speaker, yesterday the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion (Mr. de Cotret) said he directed the Cape Breton Development Corporation to stop stockpiling coal on the international piers in the Whitney Pier area of Sydney. That statement is misleading. It certainly does not mean the Government is opposed to the stockpiling of coal on the piers, it is merely a moratorium until it deals with the public relations problem caused by President Derek Rance.

While the Minister was making that statement, Mr. Rance was meeting with residents of the area Devco will be polluting and telling them the stockpiling will be going ahead and, if Devco is forced to stop, mines would be closed.