

It is signed:

"Yours truly, James Coutts".

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HEALTH

BAN SOUGHT ON ALUMINUM FOOD AND BEVERAGE CONTAINERS

Mr. Gus Mitges (Grey-Simcoe): Mr. Speaker, one of the most insidious killers of the elderly in Canada and elsewhere in the world is the degenerative Alzheimer's disease which attacks that part of the brain needed for memory and reason. In Canada there are more than 300,000 persons with this disease, the fourth ranked cause of death among seniors.

Alzheimer's disease is a sclerosis or hardening of the blood vessels leading to the brain. This prevents the flow of a sufficient amount of oxygen to the brain. One of the findings of an ongoing research program on Alzheimer's disease is the presence of high aluminum levels in the brains of those affected.

One common source of aluminum is found in aluminum food containers, aluminum cooking pots, and aluminum utensils. As this disease may take up to 20 years to develop, Mr. Speaker, one must give serious consideration to the use of aluminum in those areas as it could in fact be a causative agent in bringing on Alzheimer's disease.

Recent media reports in Ontario indicate that the go-ahead has been given to beverage and soft drink manufacturers for beverage containers made of aluminum to replace the traditional containers made of tin. I believe that this is a serious mistake and one that should be rectified. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I call upon the Government and the Department of National Health and Welfare to take action to stop the use of aluminum in the manufacture of food and beverage containers, food utensils, and cooking pots. Such action would drastically reduce the chances of developing this dreadful disease which is debilitating to so many Canadians.

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DISARMAMENT

CONDEMNATION OF ARMS RACE

Mr. Simon de Jong (Regina East): Mr. Speaker, the women of Greenham Common, England, are to be congratulated. Their two and a half year vigil against the Cruise missile has greatly contributed to public awareness. They, as well as hundreds of thousands of men, women and children have created a peace movement that Governments and politicians cannot ignore.

In Canada every poll indicates that the arms race is a major issue. People everywhere are protesting against the insanity of both sides. For example, Mr. Speaker, if a Hiroshima-sized atomic bomb had been exploded on a city every day since the first one exploded some 39 years ago, we would only have used

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up approximately 1 per cent of our explosive power. What insanity! However, it continues.

The world will be spending close a trillion dollars on arms. No wonder we have high interest rates and dozens of countries are facing bankruptcy. Like a black hole, the arms race is sucking in scare-capital while pushing the world toward nuclear extinction.

Canada continues to contribute to the insanity. Despite the recent and welcome efforts of the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau), we continue to help develop and produce new instruments of mass destruction. We continue to test the Cruise missile and sign secret agreements to test other weapons systems.

What is our greatest hope for ending the insanity? It is the people, Mr. Speaker. It is ordinary men and women overcoming red-baiting, despair, cynicism, and their sense of hopelessness, to march in the streets, to sign petitions, and to let their Governments and politicians know that this madness must be stopped before it destroys us all.

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Member's time has expired.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

NICARAGUA—CALL FOR REVIEW OF AID POLICY

Mr. Ron Stewart (Simcoe South): Mr. Speaker, on March 17 the Hon. Member for Labelle (Mr. Dupras) told the International Conference on Latin America that the Canadian Government, in its dealings with Nicaragua, is not "mesmerized by the bogey of a 'communist menace' supposedly knocking at our back door". The Hon. Member should take note of the observations of John Fryer, the socialist President of the National Union of Provincial Government Employees, who has just returned from Nicaragua. Mr. Fryer was there to attend a peace conference sponsored by the World Federation of Trade Unions, an organization made up mainly of union bodies with communist orientation.

A Sandinista government official told Mr. Fryer that "we are Marxist-Leninists and our aim is to create a Marxist-Leninist society". Mr. Fryer pointed out that Cuban influence is pervasive. He said that the Sandinistas are close to becoming a left-wing dictatorship with little interest in creating a pluralistic society. Although he himself is a socialist, he had to obtain permission from the Cubans to visit the dock area. Are the Cubans communists? Do fish swim?

Non-government unions are outlawed and harassed in Nicaragua in the same way as Solidarity is treated in Poland. Mr. Fryer recommends that Canadian labour should initiate aid projects to democratic unions. Even he is learning. I would suggest that Canadian government aid could be given on the same basis. I urge the Government to review its policy of extending aid to dictatorships that have no interest in human rights and democracy, and to draw that to the attention of the Hon. Member for Labelle.