

Madam Speaker: Order, please. The Hon. Member for Prince Albert (Mr. Hovdebo).

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PORTS

EXPORT OF GRAIN THROUGH PORT OF CHURCHILL

Mr. Stan J. Hovdebo (Prince Albert): Madam Speaker, I rise to speak against the federal Government's action in offering to rebuild the capacity of the Port of Churchill at the same time it has cut off further dealings with Poland, the country which receives most of its grain through that port.

Last year we exported 1.6 million metric tonnes of wheat to Poland, our third largest export market. This year we will sell almost nothing because the Liberal cabinet has cut off further export credits.

Last year the Port of Churchill exported 572,000 metric tonnes of grain. This year it will export far less because the Liberal cabinet will not allow the leading purchaser of grain to move through Churchill. The Government offer to upgrade Churchill is meaningless as long as it restricts potential markets.

Thus I must ask whether this offer was made in good faith in the first place. Since any upgrading funds for Churchill were conspicuously left out of the Western Transportation Initiative, I believe we can call Senator Argue's offer for Churchill another public relations ploy "that is full of sound and fury and signifies nothing".

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ABORTION

PROTECTION SOUGHT FOR LIVES OF UNBORN INFANTS

Mr. Stanley Hudecki (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of National Defence): Madam Speaker, it is a continuing concern to me as a pro-life physician that the most vulnerable and voiceless in our society, the unborn child, is not given the fullest constitutional protection. The only protection afforded is the Criminal Code, Section 251, which makes abortion an indictable offence if not carried out in an accredited hospital, by qualified physicians, with consultation by three doctors, and only where the health or the life of the mother is endangered by continuing the pregnancy.

Even this protection is compromised by the interpretation attached to the word "health" of the mother. Should the definition of health be a medical or a legal one? Parliament did not define the word "health". The definition commonly used is the very broad one given by the World Health Organization, namely, "a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being, and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity".

Therapeutic abortion committees were never legally empowered to use this extremely wide definition or similar concepts of health, in interpreting Section 251 of the Criminal Code. A

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narrower concept of "health" is more appropriate. The law should only accept abortion as a medically indicated treatment when a majority of the members of a therapeutic abortion committee are of the personal, informed, and independent medical opinion that the life or physical or mental health of the mother is, or is likely to be, seriously and directly endangered by the continuation of the pregnancy itself. Furthermore, the committees should be held legally accountable for their decisions.

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FISHERIES

ANNOUNCEMENTS MADE OUTSIDE PARLIAMENT BY MINISTERS

Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore): Madam Speaker, a little over a year ago when the Kirby Task Force was created to deal with the crisis in the Atlantic fisheries it was faced with at least three problems of major importance—what to do about the economic plight of inshore fishermen, how to restructure the offshore industry, and what to do about marketing. To date the Task Force has failed on all these major problems. Groundfish prices paid in most of Atlantic Canada have remained virtually unchanged since 1979 while the costs of fuel and gear have risen steeply.

According to Kirby, fishermen as a group are living below the poverty line. Are we to assume that the Government condones this condition? However, according to the press of May 10, the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans (Mr. De Bané) announced, in St. John's Newfoundland, federal plans to spend \$140.7 million on new installations across Canada. This is \$60 million less than will be spent in the National Capital region this year for a new Museum of Man and a new art gallery. Nova Scotia, Ontario, Quebec, and Newfoundland will share almost equally some \$106 million, with \$12 million going to New Brunswick, \$8 million to Prince Edward Island, and \$8 million to British Columbia.

In a separate announcement in Matane, Gaspé, it was stated that \$71 million out of a total of \$224.5 million is to be spent on fisheries over the next five years for development of the Gaspé region. I urge the Ministers involved in these announcements to recognize the rights of parliamentarians, and make statements in the House so that Members can ask questions—

Madam Speaker: Order.

Mr. Crouse: —about the priorities used by the Government—

Madam Speaker: Order.

Mr. Crouse: —when allocating funds for restructuring the fishing industry.

Madam Speaker: Order, please. Hon. Members must stop immediately. No one is entitled to more than 90 seconds.

Mr. Shields: I stopped.