

the wealthy. I suggest that the Government transfer the \$30 million to the Canada Works Program and get the Government off the backs of the people.

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CANADIAN RADIO-TELEVISION AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

OPPOSITION TO CN/CP APPLICATION FOR TELEPHONE SERVICE DEREGULATION

Mr. Lee Clark (Brandon-Souris): Mr. Speaker, it is as a firm believer in fair competition that I stand today to speak against the CN/CP Telecommunications application now under consideration by the CRTC. If it is approved, CNCP will hook into existing BC Tel and Bell Canada equipment in order to provide competitively priced long distance telephone service between major urban areas in Ontario, Quebec, and B.C. That would reduce revenue to the Telecom system, revenue shared by the Manitoba Telephone System and used to subsidize local service rates. If CNCP were willing to meet the less lucrative service and investment commitments which companies such as MTS must meet, then that would be a quite different story. But such is not the case, and that is why the application does not constitute fair competition.

In addition, a recent study supports the view that telephone deregulation could adversely affect the cost and level of local service in outlying areas. In recent weeks well over 600 people in my constituency have expressed to me in writing their opposition to the CNCP application. Many are seniors on fixed incomes who cannot afford to pay substantially more for basic telephone service.

While I recognize that the CRTC is presently considering the application, as the elected representative for Brandon-Souris I must express my personal opposition to this proposal.

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● (1410)

EXTERNAL AID

AFRICA—REQUIREMENT FOR TECHNOLOGICAL SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE

Mr. Reg Stackhouse (Scarborough West): Mr. Speaker, a quarter century ago Africa was self sufficient in food supplies. Today, Ethiopia and 21 other countries in Africa are in danger of being overridden by the apocalyptic horseman of famine.

Their immediate hope lies in the kind of massive aid which, under the lead of the Government, Canada is sending Ethiopia. But their long term hope requires another kind of aid; leadership in advancing scientific agriculture, developing technology, and building infrastructures.

If the need of the West is to humanize our technology, the need of Africa is to technologize its humanity.

Here is a service opportunity for Canadians with knowledge and skills to offer. Through such programs as CUSO and

S.O. 21

CESO, Canadians have already made an impressive contribution to the world's needs. We can now make an even greater contribution by creating a partnership of Government and voluntary agencies, a partnership to recruit and maintain an army dedicated to peace.

Canada can be proud of its Armed Forces and what they have done for peace. Can we now think of unarmed forces that Canada can send abroad to offer life to people facing death?

Canadians have made an inspiring response to the Government's appeal for money and goods in the past two weeks. They will respond just as readily if their country calls them to offer their skills and knowledge.

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[Translation]

THE ECONOMY

BUDGETARY CUT BACKS

Mr. Alfonso Gagliano (Saint-Léonard-Anjou): Mr. Speaker, the present Government claims it is creating a climate of confidence for businessmen so that they will invest in the Canadian economy. How can the Government create a climate of confidence when the first thing it did upon coming to power was to increase the very sales tax it had criticized so severely under the previous Government? It then immediately proceeded to raise the price of gas and unemployment insurance premiums. All these tax increases have raised the direct production costs of Canadian businesses, thus reducing their ability to compete on international markets and automatically involving the loss of thousands of jobs. During the election campaign, the Prime Minister promised to create thousands of jobs as soon as his Cabinet was sworn in. Mr. Speaker, to this day we have seen only employment cutbacks, involving at least 50,000 jobs. Mr. Speaker, has the Prime Minister misled the Canadian people?

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[English]

FINANCE

INDEXATION OF TAXATION

Mr. Don Blenkarn (Mississauga South): Mr. Speaker, I wish to draw to the attention of Members of Parliament the provision for indexing set out in the supplementary information tabled by the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson) on November 8 last. The index for next year's increases in tax is 4.6 per cent and, as a consequence, there is a reduction in federal tax revenues of over \$1 billion, and in provincial revenues of over \$375 million.

This might not be much of a benefit if the true rate of inflation were in fact 4.6 per cent, but Members will know that the inflation rate is now only 3.4 per cent year over year, and is much less than 2 per cent in the last months. Indeed, there