

S.O. 21

ture, for the application of fertilizers and the use of chemical spray guidelines.

Rail transportation, owing to our membership in the Association of American Railroads, will continue to use tons and feet.

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

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ABORTION

CALL FOR REPEAL OF LEGISLATION

Ms. Margaret Mitchell (Vancouver East): Mr. Speaker, one of the major concerns of Canadian women is the inequity which exists in abortion legislation. Canada's outmoded and unworkable 1969 abortion law does not permit freedom of conscience. This weekend the National Action Committee on the Status of Women, which represents over 3 million Canadian women, reaffirmed its position that Section 251 of the Criminal Code must be repealed. The National Action Committee also endorsed the establishment of free-standing clinics throughout Canada to provide medically insured abortion in safe and supportive surroundings.

The issue, Mr. Speaker, is choice, not pro or anti abortion. The only way for Parliament to respect differing beliefs on this sensitive moral question is to provide for freedom of conscience. On International Women's Day the New Democrats asked the Government to repeal the abortion legislation. The Acting Minister of Justice refused to answer this question.

The majority of women in Canada are not satisfied with the policy of this Government which refuses women the right to make their own decision concerning this private medical matter. Over the past 20 years many countries, regardless of political system or religious ideology, have legalized abortion.

New Democrats call on the Government to increase funding for planned parenthood and youth clinics to provide birth control education and counselling, and reduce the need for abortion. On behalf of the women of Canada we again call on the Government to repeal—

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

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RIGHT TO LIFE

LEGAL STATUS OF UNBORN CHILDREN

Mr. Stanley Hudecki (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, recent scientific advances have raised a host of legal questions in the field of modern birth technologies, including artificial insemination, womb leasing, test tube babies, cloning and other experimental human breeding techniques. At present there are serious deficiencies in the field of criminal, civil liability and family

law as regards the unborn. Among the unresolved medical-legal issues are the disposal of spare concepti in *in vitro* fertilization, the problems surrounding the gift of concepti in embryo transfers, the freezing of fertilized eggs, and the conflict between the rights of the mother and the unborn.

I strongly urge the federal and provincial Governments to enlist the services of their respective law reform commissions to initiate an in-depth and on-going study in order to determine the legal status of the unborn child and to ensure that all ethical requirements are being considered in dealing with the increasingly complex moral and sociological aspects of the birth technologies that are facing the public.

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HORTICULTURE

REGIONAL AND SEASONAL TARIFF PROTECTION ADVOCATED

Mr. Donald W. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): Mr. Speaker, today, exceptionally, March 20, is the first day of spring. This year, again exceptionally, I am offering no daffodils from my riding of Esquimalt-Saanich to Members of the House. Well, you may ask why. Why have I refrained this year, exceptionally, from making my annual presentation of daffodils to the House on this first day of Spring? My reason is simple. The Government has failed to listen.

In the past the presentation of daffodils has been coupled with a plea that the Government provide for Canada's home-grown agricultural and horticultural products, as they come to market maturity, greater tariff protection against off-shore competition. It is my belief that the Government has been dazzled by daffodils, and in consequence has failed to read the message those daffodils were seeking to convey. This year the Government will get the message without the daffodils.

What is needed is regional and seasonal tariff protection for our fruits and vegetables as they come to marketable maturity because, at that time, fruits and vegetables from warmer climes to the South are often in excess production and can be exported to Canada at cut-rate bargain prices. Dumping? Maybe. That is worth investigating.

What is also needed is relief for our farmers from onerous federal tax levies on fuels and farm machinery.

Only with this sort of help can our food and flower producers survive.