

S. O. 21

and demonstrated to the French that other bilateral issues of concern to the French will have to be re-examined in view of their belligerent action on the issue of fishing in this disputed zone.

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WINTER OLYMPIC GAMES

TORCH'S PASSAGE THROUGH MOOSE JAW CONSTITUENCY

Mr. Bill Gottselig (Moose Jaw): Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and pay tribute to the people of the great constituency of Moose Jaw.

Last weekend, as the Olympic Torch made its way through our constituency on the way to Calgary, the response was overwhelming. The excitement and the splendour of the Olympic Games were demonstrated not only by the local residents who carried the torch but by the spectators who participated in the official ceremonies which took place in the City of Moose Jaw and the Towns of Davidson and Kenaston. The fact that the ceremonies in Davidson took place in the evening, and those at Kenaston early in the morning before daylight, added greatly to the occasion.

● (1405)

I would like to acknowledge the volunteers who organized these events in each community and regret that time does not allow me to mention each individual by name. As a result of the unselfish work of these people, residents of the constituency of Moose Jaw can indeed say with justifiable pride that we have "shared the flame". The feeling of patriotism and unity across Canada will be a lasting legacy of the Olympic torch run.

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CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION

ALL-NEWS TELEVISION CHANNEL—SUPPORT FOR GRANTING OF LICENCE

Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa—Vanier): Mr. Speaker, I would like to continue speaking on the question of the CBC all-news channel. A decision was rendered by the CRTC some time ago awarding the CBC the licence for a continuous news channel on cable. I have been receiving a number of letters from people in my riding who would like to voice their opposition to any government interference in the decision taken by the CRTC.

I would like to read extracts from one letter written by Mr. Mark Stiles:

My reasons are quite simple. First, the CBC application was far superior to Allarcom's. Practically, only the CBC could mount an effective service of this kind without importing large quantities of news produced by the American networks. Second, any tampering by Cabinet would make a mockery of the

independence of the CRTC and like quasi-judicial bodies. There are no circumstances surrounding the CBC's application that would warrant Cabinet intervention.

Let's give public broadcasting the opportunity to flourish in Canada. It is, I believe, critically important to our national identity.

I am getting all kinds of letters supporting the decision. I would hope that the Government would not meddle in, interfere with, or change that decision.

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TAX REFORM

FARMERS' INCOME—RETENTION OF FIVE-YEAR BLOCK AVERAGING URGED

Mr. Geoff Wilson (Swift Current—Maple Creek): Mr. Speaker, five-year block averaging was provided to farmers back in 1947 in recognition of the uncertain conditions affecting them—the vagaries of weather, climate, marketing conditions and commodity prices—all of which lie beyond their control and yet can result in wildly fluctuating incomes. Block averaging provides a mechanism whereby farmers can average their fluctuating incomes over a specified five-year period, thereby benefiting as much as possible from the graduated marginal tax rate structure.

The Standing Committee on Finance, after comprehensive hearings on Phase I of tax reform, stated that the unique aspects of the farming industry justify the retention of five-year block averaging. The committee further recommended that block averaging be retained for farmers.

According to Finance Department information, block averaging is not a significant expenditure item. I therefore urge the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson) to reconsider his decision to eliminate block averaging for farmers.

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SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

CRITICISM OF LEVEL OF GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURES

Mr. Howard McCurdy (Windsor—Walkerville): Mr. Speaker, this week parliamentarians will once more be engaged in dialogue with the Nation Consortium of Scientific and Educational Societies. They will state the obvious: there is no prospect of an economically sound Canada unless there is a real commitment to producing a highly skilled, well-educated population, and the development of policies and the commitment of resources through which Canadians can create the technologically advanced and innovative economy necessary to produce new jobs.

The time is long past in which catchy slogans, advisory committees and forums can substitute for real action. Three years after the Government came to office, we were no closer