

are in a crisis. We need additional space in daycare centres. Time is of the essence.

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[English]

REFUGEES

OPPOSITION TO PROVISIONS OF BILL C-55

Mr. Dan Heap (Spadina): Mr. Speaker, across Canada, church people, trade unionists, immigrants and other ordinary Canadians are joining together to defend justice for refugees and to oppose Bill C-55.

In Victoria a thousand people signed a petition against Bill C-55 and presented it Friday to their Member of Parliament.

In Calgary, yesterday, the Cathedral Church of the Redeemer made special prayers for refugees and heard a Salvadoran family speak of gratitude for protection Canadians have given and also of their longing to be able to return home.

In Hamilton yesterday a Salvadoran priest celebrated a special Mass for refugees. The mayor declared Refugee Day recognizing the many benefits brought to Canada by generations of immigrants, including, recently, South East Asians, Caribbeans, and Central Americans, and the Nansen Medal given last year for the Canadian people's humane care for refugees.

In Thunder Bay, members of a dozen congregations have helped 50 refugees to cross the U.S. border since February 20 and have provided them with food, shelter and clothing.

Canadians are welcoming refugees, and ask the Government to do the same by first withdrawing Bill C-55.

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THE ECONOMY

ECONOMIC REGIONAL DISPARITIES

Mr. Alan Redway (York East): Mr. Speaker, since September, 1984, over one million new jobs have been created and unemployment has fallen by 3 per cent. Unfortunately, these figures also underline the growth of economic regional disparities in our country. The Atlantic provinces and the west lag dramatically behind southern Ontario and Manitoba. The figures show, as the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) has said, two Canada's, one rich and promising, the other underdeveloped and underemployed.

What can we do about it? A trade agreement with the United States, the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency, and the soon to be announced western economic diversification program will all help. But I believe we can do something more as well. We need a government purchasing policy aimed specifically at creating jobs in regions of traditional high

S. O. 21

unemployment, a policy with all criteria known in advance of tendering. The Americans do it now with their defence procurement budget. Understandably, many benefiting from the current government policy will not like it, but we must close the gap between the haves and the have-nots. We must have one Canada with equal opportunity for all.

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CANADA POST CORPORATION

POSSIBILITY OF MAIL CARRIERS' STRIKE

Mr. Cyril Keeper (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, the headlines today are full of references to a possible strike at the Post Office. I must say that this is of concern to most Canadians.

Are we as parliamentarians or is the Government simply powerless in this situation? Do we simply have to stand by and suffer the consequences of a strike on small business, on the public, with reduced service? Are we to end up blaming the unions or management, whichever we choose, and allow the Government simply to take pot-shots at the NDP because we believe in collective bargaining? Or is there an alternative? Is there a way of taking effective action in this situation? If the Government would read the report of conciliator Swan, it would see that he points out specifically that the deadline for financial self-sufficiency by next spring has forced the management of the Post Office to take long-term goals and make them into short-term objectives.

I suggest an option for the Government. The Government could say to the Post Office: "As long as your trend line is down with regard to the deficit, that is fine". This would offer some elbow room to the Post Office to negotiate a settlement rather than leaving us on a collision course leading to a postal strike.

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HARBOURS AND PORTS

SMALL CRAFT HARBOURS—CALL FOR INCREASED MAINTENANCE EXPENDITURES

Mr. Dave Dingwall (Cape Breton—East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, once again the federal Government has ignored the worsening state of our harbours and wharfs across the country. On May 12, 1987, the Deputy Minister of Fisheries and Oceans informed the chairman of the Standing Committee on Fisheries and Oceans that over the next five years the possibility of 30 wharfs in the Province of Nova Scotia would be closed down as a result of lack of funds. The budget for small craft harbours is simply a drop in the bucket.