

prime rates. Credit card rates have not come down 1/100th of 1 per cent.

Once again most credit card issuers have shown their forked-tongue policy. It is to increase rates quickly if the cost of money goes up, but to leave them at their highest when the cost of money comes down.

These companies still have a chance to keep faith with their customers by making an appropriate adjustment in the near future. If they do not do this, it will be clear to us all that they need legislation to keep them honest, and the House and the Government should support Bill C-266 with its proposal for a floating rate.

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EXTERNAL AID

ETHIOPIA—THREATENED RECURRENCE OF FAMINE

Mr. Jim Manly (Cowichan—Malahat—The Islands): Mr. Speaker, once again African drought and famine take their tragic toll of human misery. The failure of summer rains in parts of Ethiopia resulted in a 100 per cent crop failure in some areas. The early warning system has given the world community notice so that if we take prompt action we can avoid a cataclysmic tragedy on the scale of the one of 1984.

Between five million and seven million people are at risk, and approximately one million tonnes of emergency food aid costing \$200 million will be needed by December and January when the famine will be at its worst. Canada has already indicated that we will be giving an additional \$10 million for Ethiopian aid, a commendable first step.

The tragedies of drought and famine are compounded by those of civil war. For 26 years Eritrea has been fighting Ethiopia for independence, and this past weekend we were shocked to hear that Eritrean guerrillas blew up a food convoy bound for starving Tigre Province. In addition to providing emergency food aid, we know that Canada will work with other nations to encourage a peaceful and just solution to the Eritrean conflict.

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● (1415)

CITIZENSHIP

REQUEST FOR GRANT OF CITIZENSHIP TO FAMILY OF IRIS MASON

Hon. Bob Kaplan (York Centre): Mr. Speaker, on September 11 I rose in the House to ask the Secretary of State, the Hon. Member for Rosedale (Mr. Crombie), to exercise his statutory authority to grant citizenship to the family of Iris Mason. That family was the victim of torture in Chile.

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They came to Canada as refugees and were given landed immigrant status. When they applied for Canadian citizenship an adverse security ruling was made and they were denied citizenship. They appealed to the Security Intelligence Review Committee which examined the evidence, found it to be without merit, and urged they be awarded citizenship. I asked the Minister to give them citizenship. He said he would look into it over the weekend. Weeks have gone by. Recently he told me it was before the Minister of Justice (Mr. Hnatyshyn). I checked with his office and they know nothing about it.

It is time for the Government to stop stalling with this Kafkaesque-type of excuse, take this application seriously, give them Canadian citizenship, and finally bring an end to the troubled course of the Mason family in Canada.

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TRADE

AN IMAGINARY CONVERSATION

Mr. Felix Holtmann (Selkirk—Interlake): Mr. Speaker, this past weekend a discussion between Howard Pawley and Mr. Big of Oshawa was overheard by a fly on the wall. "But, but, but, Mr. Big," said Howard, "do you really think we can convince western Canada to oppose free trade?"

"Shirley says we can," said Mr. Big between puffs on his Havana cigar, "and Mr. White thinks we can, too."

"But, but, but, Mr. Big," said Howard, "they tell me that Oshawa already has free trade, and that Oshawa is doing well by it."

"You just leave Oshawa to me," said Mr. Big. "What is good for Oshawa is not necessarily good for Manitoba. Besides, Mr. White likes Oshawa just the way it is."

"But, but, but, Mr. Big, has Oshawa's free trade really resulted in billions of dollars invested in Oshawa?"

"Now, Howard," said Mr. Big, "you really would not want that kind of money in Manitoba. You westerners are rich in natural resources, why do you want manufacturing, too? Besides, Shirley will send you hundreds of campaign workers for your next election. You would not want to have to rely on your own people, would you?"

"No, no," replied Howard. "But, but, but, Mr. Big, what will I do with all of my hydro and my hogs and potash if I can't sell them to the Americans?"

"Don't worry, Howard," puffed Mr. Big. "Shirley and Mr. White have the perfect solution. They will help us run a national campaign to convince workers to eat more pork and leave their lights burning all night."

"Even in Oshawa, Mr. Big?"