

S.O. 22

One such conflict is the war in Afghanistan. On December 27, 1985, the war entered its seventh year. This has been a seemingly endless conflict between the Soviets and the Afghans. The cruel facts about the war remain. One million Afghans have perished from violence and famine. Four million have been driven from their homes to developed countries. Three million are in refugee camps in Pakistan, and one million more in Iran. A total of nine million are dead or displaced.

While some people focus on the war between Iran and Iraq, or the conflict in Central America, the war in Afghanistan is clearly the more tragic in terms of humanity and human cost.

We should not let this issue fade in our consciousness. It is a continuing tragedy of Soviet interference and aggression. When we talk of a durable peace between the superpowers, we should not weaken our resolve that basic human rights should be defended. This means telling the Soviets to get out of Afghanistan.

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[Translation]

THE ECONOMY

GOVERNMENT'S PERFORMANCE

Mr. Nic Leblanc (Longueuil): Mr. Speaker, the most recent economic indicators tell us that the Quebec economy continues to show sustained growth. Since the election, 136,000 jobs have been created in Quebec, an average of 9,067 jobs a month, as opposed to the total 37,000 jobs created by the Liberal Government in 55 months, an average of 673 jobs a month.

The unemployment rate has declined from 12.8 per cent in September 1984 to 11.7 per cent in December 1985.

Over the first ten months of 1985, the value of building permits has reached \$819 million, a 29.9 per cent increase over the same period in 1984.

According to a recent survey made by the Canadian Federation of Independent Businessmen, 37 per cent of SMBs intent to increase their capital expenditures between now and the year-end.

Retail sales have increased 12 per cent over 1984.

During the first eleven months of 1985, bankruptcies have declined by 12 per cent over the same period in 1984.

Those figures show once again that our economic performance has significantly improved since the election of a Progressive Conservative Government in September 1984. For the business world, this party's coming to power is a genuine cause for optimism.

Mr. Speaker: I regret to inform the Hon. Member that his time has expired.

● (1405)

[English]

HUMAN RIGHTS

RAOUL WALLENBERG—CALL FOR INTERCESSION WITH SOVIET UNION

Mr. Roland de Corneille (Eglinton-Lawrence): Forty-two years ago tomorrow, a young Swedish diplomat named Raoul Wallenberg who was in Hungary on a mission to save Jews from the Nazi holocaust was arrested by the Soviet Union shortly after it captured Budapest. Theoretically the Soviet Union was our ally, and the ally of those who fought the Nazis. However, the Soviets made Wallenberg a prisoner, and to this day no charges have been laid and he has not been given a trial. Despite the claims of the Soviet Union that Wallenberg died of a heart attack in the Soviet prison in 1947, he has been seen alive on many occasions by many witnesses ever since.

Wallenberg is a hero of humanity because he risked his life to save tens of thousands of Jews condemned to the Nazi gas chambers of Auschwitz. For this reason our Parliament proclaimed Raoul Wallenberg as the first person ever to be made an honorary citizen of Canada, on Human Rights Day, December 10, 1985, just a few weeks ago. In view of this, it is now incumbent upon the Government of Canada to look after the interests and safety of one of our own citizens.

In 1979 and in 1981, before Wallenberg was a citizen of Canada, our Government made representations to the Soviet Union. Now we are in a very sound legal position to make much stronger efforts on his behalf and, as I had provided in my Private Member's Bill of last April, I again call upon the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Clark) to take all possible steps to find out the whereabouts of Raoul Wallenberg and to secure his return to freedom.

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

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CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION

BROADCASTING OF "NEAT TO BE DEAD" SONG—DEMAND FOR APOLOGY AND RETRACTION

Mr. Bob Pennock (Etobicoke North): Mr. Speaker, is it neat to be dead? The CBC seems to think so. I have always been a strong supporter of the CBC and particularly of its radio programming. However, as a concerned parent I was thoroughly appalled to listen to a segment of *Frantic Times* which was broadcast nationally on Saturday, December 14, at the noon hour, a time when children and young teenagers would be listening.