

S.O. 21

STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S.O. 21

[English]

PUBLIC WORKS

OFFICIAL RESIDENCE OF PRIME MINISTER—SUGGESTED USE OF REPAIR EXPENDITURES

Mr. George Baker (Gander-Twillingate): Mr. Speaker, in keeping with the Minister of Finance's (Mr. Wilson) public statements on making the best use of scarce resources and having the maximum benefit from scarce resources, I would like to suggest the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) take the \$600,000 allocated for repairs to his home and transfer it to the Minister of Employment and Immigration (Miss MacDonald) to be used under a Canada Works application. This would mean work for two months for 231 workers, with expense money of \$250,000 which would be adequate. Wages would be \$350,000, and there would be 1,857 man-weeks, or stamps, as we say, issued from the project.

Repairs to the Prime Minister's residence could be a symbol of national unity. It could include youths and women working on the project, with 20 from each province and the territories to act as a symbol of national unity, a big Canada Works project.

Alas, there is a problem. The Minister of Employment and Immigration has created this year what she calls Constituency Advisory Boards to screen applications in each constituency and to "direct funds to worth-while activities that demonstrate need". According to that criterion, the application would be rejected.

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EXTERNAL AID

"ETHIOPIA AIRLIFT" ESTABLISHED BY HALIGONIANS

Mr. Stewart McInnes (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister for International Trade): Mr. Speaker, the Right Hon. Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Clark) has requested the co-operation of all Canadians in the Ethiopia relief effort. In this spirit, a group of Halifax residents have established a charitable organization called "Ethiopia Airlift", to provide speedy and effective assistance to the drought stricken people of Ethiopia.

This group of Haligonians has worked assiduously to build a regional network of support enabling it to collect the food, medical supplies, and equipment that will be sent to the Hararghe region of southern Ethiopia. It has succeeded in sensitizing Nova Scotia, and indeed much of the Maritimes, to the urgency of the Ethiopian problem and the need to make contributions.

This spontaneous outpouring of hope and good will was rewarded when, on December 7, the Canadian Government offered the committee two DC-8 freight jets, each with 44-tonne capacity cargoes. This will enable the group, which is now incorporated as a charitable institution, to carry out two

airlift operations to deliver emergency goods to a target group of 50,000 famine stricken Ethiopians, 10,000 of whom are children. The first airlift will be leaving from Halifax on December 23. The offloading and distribution of the supplies will be arranged in co-operation with World University Service of Canada.

"Ethiopia Airlift" is intended to provide emergency and interim aid to a relatively small proportion of needy Ethiopians.

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

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IMMIGRATION

PLIGHT OF DETAINED IRANIANS

Mr. Dan Heap (Spadina): Mr. Speaker, 13 Iranians have been held in detention at the Avion hotel near Pearson Airport. Some of them have been held for four months or more, all of them for over two months. They claim to be fleeing from Iran and the well-known bloody dictator there. Ten of them went on a hunger strike for a week in order to draw attention to their situation.

In fact they have not been treated according to the laws of Canada. They have never been informed of the program for Iranians under IS-26 of the immigration guidelines. They were never given the pamphlets which are said to be issued, and it is questionable whether the pamphlets to advise them of their rights under that program have ever been printed.

They were never able to apply, as the program provides, for a ministerial permit to stay in the country for 12 months and earn a living until their situation is cleared up. None of these rights according to our laws were given to these people.

Some are now being released because members of certain churches have individually given a \$10,000 bond each in order to get these people out of close confinement.

I call on the Minister to inquire into this incident and to inquire why these people were not informed of their rights according to Canada's laws under IS-26, B-6, 9, 10 of the immigration regulations—

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

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[Translation]

REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

CO-OPERATIVE FEDERALISM

Mr. Gabriel Desjardins (Témiscamingue): Mr. Speaker, all Members of this House, especially those from Quebec, can take pride in the general agreement on regional economic