

Routine Proceedings

When the hon. member refers to exhaustees, the government has programs under the Canadian Jobs Strategy where some of these people can be helped. But it is important for everyone, every stakeholder in the economy, to realize that there is no easy, magic solution out there and that we have to work together. This is what we are striving to do.

Mr. David Dingwall (Cape Breton—East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, Canadians are aware of the strategy of the Government of Canada.

But the minister must be aware that in Nova Scotia 78,000 people are on welfare; in Quebec over 500,000; and in Ontario 675,000 Canadians are on welfare. They don't want to hear from the minister about a strategy. They want to hear about the concrete action that the Government of Canada will take to assist those individuals.

So I ask the minister: What specific programs will he and his government put in place to assist those thousands of Canadians who want meaningful work?

Hon. Bernard Valcourt (Minister of Employment and Immigration): What we have to do is pursue the work that the Minister of Finance, the Prime Minister and the premiers started the last time they met.

• (1500)

The issue is activating those funds under welfare and under UI, trying to render these sums more relevant to the needs of people in terms of training and learning in Canada.

Following the last first ministers' meeting, there was agreement among the provinces and the federal government to keep working in that direction, which we will do.

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BURMA

Mr. Ross Harvey (Edmonton East): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of State for Finance and Privatization.

The State Law and Order Restoration Council, which is the illegal military junta currently ruling Burma, has now moved beyond the jailing of parliamentarians to the murder of entire villages of innocent citizens.

Last week, the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources and the entire energy standing committee

agreed that Petro-Canada should immediately suspend all activities in Burma.

Will the minister contact the board and executive of Petro-Canada, insisting that the company send a strong signal of protest and revulsion by suspending all activity in Burma and informing them that unless such action is taken quickly, the government will take the unusual but completely legal step of voting its remaining 80 per cent of the company's shares to compel such a suspension?

Hon. John McDermid (Minister of State (Finance and Privatization)): Mr. Speaker, Petro-Canada is a publicly owned company. It is managed by a board of directors. I would suggest that the hon. member make his representation to them.

Mr. Ross Harvey (Edmonton East): Mr. Speaker, is the minister then saying that the government will do nothing, even to attempt to convince Petro-Canada to withdraw and stop supporting this bloody regime?

Hon. John McDermid (Minister of State (Finance and Privatization)): Mr. Speaker, I have no indication that Petro-Canada is supporting that regime.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO PETITIONS

Mr. Albert Cooper (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of State and Leader of the Government in the House of Commons): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 36(8), I have the honour to table, in both official languages, the government's response to 11 petitions.

[Editor's Note: See today's Votes and Proceedings.]

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COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE**AGRICULTURE—FIRST REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**

Mr. A. H. Harry Brightwell (Perth—Wellington—Waterloo): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present the first report of the Standing Committee on Agriculture in relation to Bill C-54, an act to amend the Farm Products Marketing Agencies Act and other acts in consequence thereof.