

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Wednesday, April 27, 1983

The House met at 2 p.m.

● (1405)

STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S.O. 21

[English]

THE UKRAINE

FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF GREAT FAMINE

Hon. Ray Hnatyshyn (Saskatoon West): Madam Speaker, 1983 marks the 50th anniversary of the Great Famine of 1932-1933 in which over seven million Ukrainians perished. Besides its horrific magnitude, what makes this famine different from most is that it was a planned act of genocide on the part of Stalin's Soviet Government. In the words of journalist Malcolm Muggeridge who witnessed this event:

The novelty of this particular famine, what made it so diabolical is that it was the deliberate creation of a bureaucratic mind, without any consideration whatever of the consequences in human suffering.

Planned famine was used as an instrument of national policy to break down resistance to Government efforts to collectivize the farming community. In the four years preceding 1932, Stalin and the Central Committee purposely estimated unrealistically high yields and thereupon established maximum supply quotas. When producers could not meet these quotas, they were accused of stealing, hoarding, and sabotage. In the fall of 1932 the authorities confiscated all food which could be found. By the spring of 1933, Ukrainian peasants were dying at a rate of 25,000 a day.

This tragedy must not be forgotten. It is important that history accurately portray the Stalinist régime for what it was, an unspeakably ruthless régime. The Ukrainian people have been the subject of many trials and tragedies, but none greater than this despicable famine. It in part explains why the Canadians of Ukrainian—

Madam Speaker: Order. Order, please.

Mr. Hnatyshyn:—descent so love their freedom—

Madam Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Hnatyshyn:—and why they are willing to contribute so freely—

Madam Speaker: Order, please. Order.

Mr. Hnatyshyn:—to nation building in a free and democratic nation.

Madam Speaker: Order, please. Order. I would just like to remind Hon. Members that this is the first time an Hon. Member has not put an end to his statement when I indicated that the 90 seconds were over.

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TOURISM

CONDEMNATION OF BUDGET MEASURES AFFECTING INDUSTRY

Mr. Stan Darling (Parry Sound-Muskoka): Madam Speaker, as Hon. Members of the House are well aware, I have repeatedly urged the Minister of Finance (Mr. Lalonde) that, because of its geographical dispersion, because of the volume of cash flow it generates, and because of the ripple effect it causes throughout the economy, any serious attempt to breathe life into the hoped for recovery should start with the tourist industry. This massive but unrecognized giant is the second largest industry in the country, employing 1,100,000 persons and generating \$16.5 billion in revenues. More than any other, this sector can attract both Canadian and offshore money and spread it throughout the economy. Encouragement of this industry is the encouragement of the economy as a whole.

In light of these demonstrable facts, the recent budget has not only done nothing for this industry, it has in fact taken the opposite tack. Effective October 1, 1984, it increases the excise tax on alcoholic beverages, and the four-cent a gallon "Canadian ownership charge", despite the original reason for its existence having been accomplished, has been left intact on the price of gas at the pump. It is almost as though the Government is saying to Canadians, "Go and holiday somewhere else. We don't want your business!" Perhaps the Government does not, but let me assure you that the tourist operators of Parry Sound-Muskoka, and throughout the rest of Canada, do.

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HOUSING

REGISTERED HOME OWNERSHIP SAVINGS PLANS—SUGGESTED AMENDMENT OF REGULATIONS

Mr. Stanley Hudecki (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of National Defence): Madam Speaker, it was recently pointed out to me by a constituent who had signed an offer to purchase a residential property and subsequently verified that once an RHOSP is collapsed and the cheque representing the proceeds from the plan are cashed, there is no possibility of having the RHOSP re-instated. While I can appreciate the over-all