

S. O. 31

Along with York West constituents who have helped collect thousands of signatures on petitions to support this campaign, I call upon the government to immediately act upon this community initiative and help end this plague.

This problem will be won or lost on the local battlefields and therefore those waging the fight locally must be given the tools with which to overcome and to ensure victory.

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OLYMPICS

Mr. Pat Nowlan (Annapolis Valley—Hants): Mr. Speaker, as we are on the countdown to the Olympics which officially begin this weekend, I would like to commend and wish our athletes well.

Many of us, including golfers and/or tennis players, took heart with what our Davis Cup team almost did in Vancouver last weekend. Our athletes at Albertville in the Alps are looking and dreaming of their gold, their bronze and their silver. I think it is only correct that as we are spaced out in this country on constitutions that we know we have those athletes who are not spaced out on constitutions but are spaced out on their own physical achievements. We wish them well.

We in this House, Mr. Speaker, deserve special credit because the daughter of a colleague of mine, the hon. member for Calgary Northeast, is on the official Olympic team as a freestyle skier. We wish her and all her companions well. They have faith in themselves, they have faith in their country. We have faith in them, we have faith in this country. We put our hopes in them and we wish them well.

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AEROVOX CANADA INC.

Mr. Bill Casey (Cumberland—Colchester): Mr. Speaker, the town of Amherst was shocked to learn of the planned closing of Amherst Aerovox, a subsidiary of an American firm. After the initial shock, the town and area are gathering up its resources and fighting back.

Already the Amherst Aerovox Community Committee has raised \$100,000 to be used to search for products,

partners or new owners for this factory. The team is made up of local business and development people who have knowledge of the industry and contacts which hopefully will prove successful in finding a solution.

The provincial Department of Economic Development is assisting with funding, resource people and material. The federal Department of Industry, Science and Technology has also provided information and assistance. The Cumberland Development Authority is acting as central office for the group. The Amherst and Area Development Commission has provided funding and manpower. The company has added funding as well. Canada Employment and Immigration is providing an industrial adjustment program to help the employees adjust and ACOA has acted quickly and significantly to provide funding and resources.

The search for products, partners and matching businesses has begun and will continue until a solution is found. We will leave no stone unturned to solve this issue in the interests of the 62 employees affected.

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INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT WEEK

Mr. Stan J. Hovdebo (Saskatoon—Humboldt): Mr. Speaker, this is International Development Week in Canada. Again, Development Week falls in the midst of a global recession but this is not the time for Canada to reduce her budget for ODA.

This recession is hurting Canadians deeply, however, as usual the hardest hit are the world's poorest. Rarely have developing countries needed our help more than now.

The United Nations Development Program continues to highlight dramatic disparities between North and South, and UNICEF tells us that one quarter of a million children died last year from starvation or disease.

Canada must not back away from her obligations to the developing world. We must ensure that our development assistance provides the greatest possible benefit to the recipients. The government must work more closely with Canada's development NGOs to ensure that our ODA goals are met.