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● (1110)

LABOUR RELATIONS**PRINCE RUPERT GRAIN HANDLERS' STRIKE—CALL FOR REVIEW OF LABOUR RELATIONS LEGISLATION**

Mr. Geoff Wilson (Swift Current—Maple Creek): Mr. Speaker, the movement of grain is the life-blood of the Canadian Prairies. Last year that movement was curtailed by shut-downs at the Port of Thunder Bay and later at the Port of Vancouver. Earlier this year various railway workers had to be legislated back to work. Now 69 grain handlers at the Port of Prince Rupert are on strike, thus threatening the movement of 15 per cent of Canada's export grain.

Canadians are growing weary of strikes and lock-outs in essential services, whether it be Air Canada, the Post Office, the railways, the ports, or some other sector. Canadians do not really care who went on strike or who locked out. They know only too well that they are the innocent third party that pays the price for the failure of management and labour to reach agreement.

Surely it is time to outlaw strikes and lock-outs in essential services and find alternative methods for resolving these impasses. There are plenty of alternatives and options, and I again call for establishment of a parliamentary committee to investigate this matter thoroughly and come back to the House with some alternatives. Surely it is time for the insanity of strikes and lock-outs to end.

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TAX REFORM**NON-IMPOSITION OF SALES TAX ON FOOD AND PRESCRIPTION DRUGS**

Mr. Simon de Jong (Regina East): Mr. Speaker, Canadians welcome the announcement made last night by the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson) that food will not be taxed. This mad scheme first proposed by the Government resulted in hundreds of thousands of Canadians signing petitions and protesting the move. Yesterday was a victory for ordinary Canadians. Their everyday necessities of life will not now be taxed.

We also welcome the announcement that basic drugs will escape the taxman, as well as hospitals, school boards and municipalities. If the Minister wants extra revenue, he should look at the 110,000 profitable corporations which did not pay any tax on over \$13 billion in profits in 1983. Even with his tax reform, 50,000 of those corporations will still not pay any tax.

The Minister should stop robbing the pockets of ordinary Canadians and go after those who have not been paying their fair share.

TRADE**CANADA-UNITED STATES TRADE AGREEMENT—POSITION OF SASKATCHEWAN PREMIER**

Mr. Stan J. Hovdebo (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, Premier Devine of Saskatchewan has suggested that the Mulroney-Reagan trade deal will make Saskatchewan an industrial giant. Are we to believe that he means an industrial giant just like North Dakota?

Premier Devine also indicated that the deal will make farm machinery cheaper for prairie farmers. Surely the Premier, who is also Saskatchewan's Minister of Agriculture, knows that we have had free trade in farm machinery for 30 years. If farm machinery is an example of free trade, we can expect little of the expansion of which the Premier speaks. Except for highly subsidized Versatile, not one tractor, John Deere, Massey Ferguson, International, Case or White, is made in Canada today. Compare that with the effects of managed trade under the Auto Pact where a requirement of 60 per cent production in Canada has developed a booming industry.

The Premier well knows that the free trade plan is not an Auto Pact. Trying to sell it in that way is an attempt to deceive the people of Saskatchewan.

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SENIOR CITIZENS**RELIEF AT MINISTER'S ANNOUNCEMENT**

Mr. Alan Redway (York East): As you know, Mr. Speaker, next to Victoria, British Columbia, there are more senior citizens in my constituency than in any other in Canada. The seniors, and for that matter many others who have expressed their concern to me about the possibility of a tax on food, are delighted by the announcement of the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson) that there will be no federal tax imposed on groceries, prescription drugs and medical devices.

It is interesting to note, however, that in Sweden, long held up by the NDP as a socialist paradise, there is a value-added tax or national sales tax on everything, including basic groceries. There are three sales tax rates in Sweden and food is taxed at the highest rate, 23.46 per cent.

Fortunately, Canada is not an NDP socialist paradise. Fortunately, we have a Progressive Conservative Government sensitive to the concerns of Canadians.