

ment insurance benefits if the bill is not passed by the Senate.

Mr. Speaker, families and children will be in great difficulty because of the Senate's obstruction, and I would urge the Senate to show some maturity and common sense so that this bill can be expedited through Parliament.

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• (1410)

[English]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

Mr. Jim Karygiannis (Scarborough—Agincourt): Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to the attention of the House a very serious matter. The Armenian people living in Nagorno-Karabakh, which is an autonomous region under the control of the Azerbaijan, have been persecuted by the Azerbaijan government for some years now.

The situation was quieted for a short time when the region was placed under the administration and protection of Moscow. The Supreme Soviet on November 28 made the decision to pull its troops out of the region and as a result the killing of Armenians is starting again.

The Azerbaijani government has also put up a blockade which is seriously hampering efforts to rebuild the area after last year's earthquake.

In light of the Prime Minister's recent trip to the Soviet Union and the changes that are taking place in eastern Europe, I call on the Prime Minister to ask the Soviet Premier to give the protection and right to self-determination that the people of this region deserve.

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NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY LEADERSHIP CONVENTION

Mr. Felix Holtmann (Portage—Interlake): Mr. Speaker, the following is a list of adjectives which Canadians have used to describe the recent political leadership convention held in Winnipeg: Unbelievable, strange, different, unacceptable, conniving, backstabbing, open,

scarey, marvelous, preposterous, stupid, wonderful and insane.

Should another political party consider a leadership convention, it should refer to the Acme leadership candidates tips:

1. Never wear a concealed 007 listening device.
2. Invite media whose objective is to further the party's cause.
3. Be on guard and constantly protect your back from other candidates.
4. Take up a foreign language for intimate discussions.
5. Send your mother and brother on a long vacation at your own expense.
6. Beware of labour leaders.

Do you copy, Mr. Speaker? Do you copy, Mr. Speaker? If you copy, Mr. Speaker, I'll sit down.

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EL SALVADOR

Mr. Bill Blaikie (Winnipeg Transcona): Mr. Speaker, many of the Salvadorans arrested in the raid that saw Karen Ridd of Winnipeg arrested and later released remain in detention. Their lives are in great danger because under the Arena government's state of siege, the military have the power to charge people with assault on the high command, to immediately prosecute them and to sentence them to execution.

When is the Canadian government going to speak out clearly and strongly against the crimes of the Salvadoran regime? When is the Prime Minister going to send a strong message to Mr. Bush that American military aid to the reprehensible Arena government is unacceptable and must stop?

The silence of the Canadian government stems either from naiveté or cowardice. I believe it to be the latter. If the Prime Minister remains silent on American aid to the Salvadoran military, then the Canadian government must share responsibility for the military's actions. If those courageous Salvadoran humanitarian workers are executed, the Canadian government, by its acquiescence to the official American view, must share the blame for their deaths. The government must speak out today.