

In a communication which I received from the Minister, he stated "that the need for assistance will be evaluated in light of other government economic priorities at the time". Clearly the western farmers' plight should be an economic priority of the Government. Or is the plight of white bean growers a priority while that of the coloured bean growers is not? I thought we had an entrenched Charter to handle this type of thing. This type of discrimination is clearly not conducive to national unity, nor in accordance with the way Canadians expect to be treated by their elected representatives.

The plight of western Canadian coloured bean growers is critical. They are faced with depressed prices for their commodities due to a lack of demand, caused by over-production in the U.S. along with the inability of Third World markets to import because of the high U.S. dollar.

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Member's time has expired.

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THE FRANCHISE

OPPOSITION TO EXTENSION TO PRISON INMATES

Mr. Garnet M. Bloomfield (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of State (Small Businesses and Tourism)): Mr. Speaker, I have received communications in my office objecting to the introduction of legislation that would give prisoners the right to vote in elections. In my view, extending this right is utterly ridiculous and the proposal should be nipped in the bud immediately.

We continuously give more and more rights to inmates, while doing very little to help victims of crime. Often these victims go through a great deal of suffering and pain, and are sometimes handicapped for the rest of their lives. Meanwhile the criminal does his time in an institution where he, in many cases, he has access to excellent sport facilities and eats better food than some Canadians living on the outside.

And now some are suggesting that the right to vote should be extended to these offenders, to murderers, thieves, rapists, and defrauders, to name just a few. Instead of giving the voting right to inmates, we should be improving the rights of victims. Such legislation has been before the House since February 7, and I urge all Hon. Members to work towards its passage and not to pursue legislation giving prison inmates the right to vote in elections. To extend this right would be adding insult to injury. These people are not confined for a paid holiday. They are confined because they broke Canadian laws, and therefore forfeit the privilege of voting.

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ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

ACID RAIN—SUGGESTED RECONSTITUTION OF SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. Stan Darling (Parry Sound-Muskoka): Mr. Speaker, I draw to the attention of the House the plight of the subcom-

mittee on acid rain. The subcommittee of which I am, or was, a member, fulfilled its mandate as prescribed by Parliament earlier this month with the tabling of its report. There are presently no provisions to reconstitute this valuable subcommittee. I fear it will fade into a polluted sunset when it is most needed.

Members of every political stripes sitting on the committee agreed that working on the problems of acid rain gave them as much, or more, satisfaction as anything they have done since becoming Members of Parliament. So long as the serious problems of acid rain persist, should the subcommittee not persist in finding solutions to this, Canada's worst environmental blight?

Our report is now in the hands of the Minister of the Environment. Sixteen recommendations appear in the report. Only a subcommittee composed of all Parties represented in this House can monitor the results of those recommendations. Should the subcommittee be dissolved, no single Member will have the clout required to urge the Minister to follow the recommendations. After all the miles travelled, and thousands of hours spent on research, it would be a moral crime to deprive Canada of the follow-through needed to stop acid rain.

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EMPLOYMENT

LIBERAL PARTY LEADER—POSITION ON YOUTH JOB-CREATION MEASURES

Mr. George Baker (Gander-Twillingate): Mr. Speaker, it was a breath of fresh air to listen to John Turner on Saturday night talk about the relevant employment issues in the country when he spoke about young people being given an opportunity to compete for government sponsored jobs. I know, the Canadian people know, and John Turner knows what the Opposition Members do not know, and what they should know.

I pointed out on three occasions in this Chamber since January that young people, new and re-entrants into the workforce, were placed in the lowest of four categories for referral to job-creation projects started by agreements with provincial Governments. I pointed that out, and asked opposition Members to intercede. Not one of them followed through to bring about a change. It is unfortunate that government backbenchers and John Turner have to do the job of the Official Opposition in the House. John Turner will be the turning point in the fortunes of these young people.

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FORESTRY

IMPORTANCE OF FOREST INDUSTRY TO ECONOMY

Mr. Jim Manly (Cowichan-Malahat-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, across Canada our forest industry is in crisis. More than 300 Canadian communities depend on our number one industry to provide jobs. Municipal, provincial, and federal