

S. O. 21

continue to be put to death, development efforts in the neighbouring countries will continue to be sabotaged, and the African population will continue to live in a country where racism is an institutionalized way of life?

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ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

NATIONAL SOIL CONSERVATION WEEK

Mr. Don Ravis (Saskatoon East): Mr. Speaker, this week is National Soil Conservation Week. Soil is a resource that is degrading at an alarming rate. Total on-farm costs of land degradation in Canada are approaching \$1 billion annually. It took Saskatchewan soils over 10,000 years to form, yet in less than 100 years of farming nearly half of the organic matter has been lost.

That is why we should applaud the three-year \$500,000 joint Federal-Provincial Soil Conservation Program called "Save our Soils". The purpose of this venture is to encourage soil and crop management practices by farmers. This program aims at raising public awareness, establishing on-farm demonstration projects, and monitoring soil degradation levels in each region of the country. Furthermore, Saskatchewan's Agriculture Development Fund is assessing innovative farming methods, and farmers are demonstrating ways to maintain long-term viability and soil productivity. These efforts will be supported by the International Soils Conference sponsored by CIDA to be held in Saskatoon in June of 1989.

Congratulations to all those who are working today to preserve our soil resource for future generations.

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[Translation]

CULTURE

TRIBUTE TO FILMMAKER FRÉDÉRIC BACK

Mr. Ian Waddell (Vancouver—Kingsway): Mr. Speaker, I would like to draw attention to the success of one of our fellow citizens and the international tribute paid to him yesterday. Frédéric Back won an Oscar for his film *L'homme qui plantait des arbres*. What is extraordinary, Mr. Speaker, is that Mr. Back already won an Oscar in 1982 for his film *Crac*.

[English]

I would also like to congratulate the National Film Board whose animated short *George and Rosemary* was nominated, and the great Canadian director, Norman Jewison, whose film *Moonstruck* won three Oscars.

The striking international success of our filmmakers only serves to highlight the immediate need for film distribution in Canada so Canadians can see our films. As filmmaker Jean-

Claude Lauzon said at the Genies Awards: "Glory means nothing if Canadians do not see our films".

The Minister of Communications (Miss MacDonald) promised such legislation in February, 1987. Rather than delivering, she has caved in to Jack Valenti and the U.S. film lobby. I urge her to introduce this Bill now and allow Canadians to see our excellent Canadian films before she wins the Oscar for worst non-performance by a Minister for the third straight year.

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AGRICULTURE

LOW PRICES RECEIVED BY ALFALFA GROWERS

Mr. Gordon Taylor (Bow River): Mr. Speaker, the irrigated alfalfa industry was well able to compete with other crops when the majority of income came from the sale of the crops, but now the competitive crops receive income from government sources while the alfalfa growers receive no help whatsoever. The claim that the alfalfa industry is depressed due to the low price of hay does not take into consideration the economic mechanism responsible for the low prices, such as large acreages of annual crops like barley and oats which do receive government money, and which are cut and baled as forage. How can the farmer who specializes in a perennial hay crop as a cash crop compete against such assistance? Consequently his market vanishes and the price he gets is cut in half.

Do you know what? Our irrigated alfalfa producers will soon disappear as well if the help given to their competitors is not also offered to them.

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HUMAN RIGHTS

LATVIA—INTERFERENCE WITH CEREMONY TO COMMEMORATE VICTIMS OF STALINIST DEPORTATIONS

Miss Aideen Nicholson (Trinity): Mr. Speaker, on March 24, 1988, I spoke in this House about a ceremony planned for the following day in Riga, Latvia, to commemorate the victims of the mass deportations of 1949 from Latvia. I said at the time that if the U.S.S.R. authorities allowed the ceremony in Riga to proceed peacefully, we would have seen a concrete example of glasnost.

Unfortunately, the demonstration was not allowed to proceed. Riga radio reported that the site of the gathering at the Statue of Liberty was sealed off one half-hour before the scheduled commemoration. According to another report from Riga, the life of a representative for one of the unofficial journals was repeatedly threatened if he gave information about the events in Riga. In Tallinn, at least five Estonian