

Adjournment Debate

products to where they are needed. I ask Hon. Members to think what that would mean to the African continent today in light of what has taken place since 1982. Here is a major world market in which there is no infrastructure available to sell Canadian food properly. It is nothing new for food to be shipped to some countries in the world to rot on the docks before it ever gets delivered. Canagrex was specifically set up to deal with such circumstances. It was set up to sell aggressively. If one is to sell aggressively one has to be able to deliver one's product. To say that it would cost \$6 million to set up Canagrex for major areas of the agricultural community when the Estimates project something in the order of \$12.3 million over the first three years is like talking about peanuts to the Prime Minister and his Government. They keep that sum of money for petty cash. That would not even build an airport for the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney).

● (1800)

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): Order, please. I am sorry to have to interrupt the Hon. Member for Renfrew—Nipissing—Pembroke (Mr. Hopkins) but it is six o'clock.

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

[English]

A motion to adjourn the House under Standing Order 66 deemed to have been moved.

PENSIONS—HOMEMAKERS' PENSION INQUIRY

Mr. Alan Redway (York East): Madam Speaker, tonight I want to tell you a little bit about a neighbour of mine. My neighbour is a very hard-working woman. She spends a good part of every day working around her home. She spends a good deal of time cleaning her home, dusting, polishing, vacuuming, sweeping and all of the other things that have to be done to keep a home or a building clean. If this neighbour of mine were to be doing these things outside of her own home, we would probably say that she was in the cleaning business.

This lady does a lot of other things as well. She spends a lot of time cooking for her entire family. She has to plan meals in advance, prepare those meals, serve them, collect the dishes afterward, wash the dishes, dry them and put them away. I venture to say that if she were doing that outside of her own home, you and I, Madam Speaker, would say that she was probably in the restaurant business.

In addition to that, she spends a lot of her time washing her own clothes and the clothes of members of her family. She hangs those clothes out to dry, brings them back in and gets them ironed, folded and put away. I suspect that if she were doing that outside of her own home, you and I, Madam Speaker, as well as other Canadians, would probably say that she was running a laundry business.

In addition to that, my neighbour has some children. She is kept pretty busy with those children. She has to make sure they get up in the morning in time to get to school. She makes sure they get fed, clothed and off to school. She has to be there when they come home for lunch and has to get them off to school again after lunch. She supervises their play and their homework and she engages in a little child psychology as well. I venture to say, Madam Speaker, that if she were doing this with other people's children, you and I would probably say that she was running a daycare centre.

My neighbour usually ends up dealing with crises around the home every day of the week. Sometimes she has to deal with a flooded drain, sometimes light bulbs go out. Sometimes her appliances go on the fritz and she has to make sure that they get repaired. If she were dealing with these things in someone else's home, you and I, Madam Speaker, would probably say that she was running a repair business, and because she has to call in other tradesmen, we might even call her a general contractor.

She does other things as well. She cuts the grass and hedges, applies fertilizer and shovels snow. If she were doing those things outside her own home, we would call her a gardener or a handyman.

In addition to all of those things, she is a community volunteer. When her neighbours are away, she looks after their homes and pets. If her neighbours are sick, she brings food for them. She is the person around our neighbourhood who collects for charities. She is the person who volunteers to help out. She is one of those people upon whom all of us depend on an unpaid basis to make our society continue to go around.

● (1805)

Who is this person? Some people call her a housewife. My wife would call her a household engineer. Other people would call her a homemaker. She is one of the hardest working people I know. Even though she works as hard as other workers, for some reason or another she is not entitled to a Canada pension. If she were divorced or separated, she might be entitled at some stage to the Canada pension credits of her spouse or former spouse. If she outlives her husband, she might be entitled to some of his Canada pension. However, she is not entitled to a Canada Pension Plan of her own.

Although our Party has promised her a Canada Pension Plan, a homemakers Canada Pension Plan, for some strange reason we have not yet delivered. I think it is time that we deliver. I hope the Minister will tell us tonight that the Government will be delivering very soon on a homemakers Canada pension. I also hope he will tell us the exact date when my neighbour and all other homemakers across the country can expect to get a homemakers pension.

Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Madam Speaker, may I say at the outset that it is a pleasure to see you gracing this Chamber and the chair. It is a pleasure to make my intervention this evening under your guidance.