

S. O. 21

IMMIGRATION

SENATE DELAY IN PASSING LEGISLATION

Mr. Rob Nicholson (Niagara Falls): Mr. Speaker, in the last couple of months I have canvassed many of my constituents concerning Bills C-55 and C-84. These are the two Bills that will restore some common sense to Canada's refugee determination system. These are also the laws that are being stalled by the unelected Members of the Senate.

Over 1,400 individuals from over 40 communities have contacted me to call upon the Senate to abide by democratic principles and end the confusion in Canada's refugee determination system. Their refusal to pass Bills C-55 and C-84 is nothing short of a disgrace which is condemned by my constituents, and I believe by all Canadians.

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AGRICULTURE

POTATO STABILIZATION PROGRAM—DELAY IN PAYMENTS TO FARMERS

Mr. George Henderson (Egmont): Mr. Speaker, the potato farmers of Prince Edward Island have waited a long time for stabilization payments on their 1985 potato crop. On March 22 the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Wise) told the House that the farmers should have their cheques by Easter. Some farmers are still waiting. We now know why.

Their cheques were sent by the Department of Agriculture to the Farm Credit Corporation. This is absolutely unfair.

Many farmers are in a financial crisis, especially our potato farmers who have had some very poor years. But to find out that their cheques were sent to the Farm Credit Corporation is the last straw.

Understandably, the farmers are very upset. Apparently the Farm Credit Corporation has agreed to send the cheques on to the farmers now.

I urge the Minister of Agriculture to investigate this blatant disregard for the dignity of our hard-pressed farmers and ensure that this never happens again.

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ABORTION

NURSES FOR LIFE—INCLUSION OF CONSCIENCE CLAUSE SOUGHT IN NEW LEGISLATION

Mr. Gus Mitges (Grey—Simcoe): Mr. Speaker, Nurses for Life is an organization which is concerned with the ethical issues in nursing from the perspective of respect for life and quality of care for all their patients. Therefore, to insist that nurses assist with procedures in which the main objective is to

kill one of their own patients as in the performance of an abortion is illogical and thoughtlessly unprofessional.

Abortion is a violent act which is directly opposed to the philosophy and practice of nursing. Nurses for Life requests that a conscience clause be enacted whereby no doctor, nurse, or others involved in health care facilities, including hospitals, be required to counsel, assist, perform, or participate in any way in any treatment or procedure to which he or she has a moral, religious or personal objection.

Nurses for Life therefore calls upon the Government to bring forth legislation to enact conscience clauses to protect health professionals from being forced to abandon their principles or lose their employment.

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ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

PRESENCE OF TOXIC WASTES ON INDIAN RESERVE

Mr. John Parry (Kenora—Rainy River): Mr. Speaker, the most pressing environmental concern for many communities across Canada is that of toxic waste storage. Toxic wastes are a proven health hazard. Governments must do everything possible to ensure safe living conditions for all their citizens.

In remote northwestern Ontario, in the Nishnawbe-Aski Reserve community of Big Trout Lake, the people are very upset and frustrated by the delays in removing PCB wastes which are, ironically, the property of Environment Canada.

The Chief has physically removed these wastes from their present storage site and has threatened to fly them to storage sites in southern Ontario if the provincial and federal Governments do not move them quickly and act in accordance with existing regulations. The people of Big Trout Lake did not ask for these chemical wastes. All they are asking is that the PCBs be removed from the reserve.

I call upon the federal Minister of the Environment (Mr. McMillan) to show the leadership he has committed himself to in the past and immediately secure the necessary provincial approval for the transportation of these wastes off the reserve.

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AGRICULTURE

VISIT TO ABITIBI DAIRY FARM WITH MINISTER

Mr. Guy St-Julien (Abitibi): Mr. Speaker, on March 29, 1988, the Minister of State for Agriculture (Mr. Blais) visited one of the most productive dairy farms in the Abitibi, the Tenhave farm in Val Senneville.