

workers. I demand you withdraw from free trade and fulfil your promise of jobs, jobs, jobs."

We in the NDP are proud to work hand in hand with these 10,000 workers and the thousands more they represent. Let us cancel the free trade madness now before we give away any more of our resources.

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### ABORIGINAL RIGHTS

#### PROPOSED FISHING AGREEMENT IN NORTHERN ONTARIO

**Mr. Keith Penner (Cochrane—Superior):** Mr. Speaker, once again in northern Ontario sincere and determined efforts are being made to fashion a fishing agreement with the Indian people of that region. The reaction of some non-native persons to this process is disturbing and, in some cases, disgraceful. Aboriginal rights are recognized in the Canadian Constitution. The most basic and primary of these rights relate to hunting, fishing and trapping. Treaties did not destroy aboriginal rights but confirmed them, and provided for a sharing of natural resources with the newcomers.

The proposed fishing agreement in northern Ontario calls for co-management arrangements for the use and conservation of this resource. It is a reasonable way to proceed. Those who oppose the negotiated approach should consider that the alternative, court action, could lead to a decision upholding an unfettered aboriginal right to fish in traditional territories.

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### EXTERNAL AID

#### CANADIAN INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY— PURCHASE OF GRAIN TO ASSIST POOR COUNTRIES

**Mr. Lee Clark (Brandon—Souris):** Mr. Speaker, it is a cruel irony that in a world where many people still go to bed hungry every night, many countries, including Canada, worry about how to market food surpluses. That is why I was pleased to hear yesterday that CIDA will spend some \$450 million on food aid and development over the next two years and that most of the money will be spent on the purchase of grains and oilseeds from western Canadian farmers as part of our contribution to an international world food program.

This is an idea which is already supported by many farmers in the west and indeed all across Canada, who participate in programs like that of the Canadian Food Grains Bank. This particular organization was funded by the Mennonite Central Committee some three years ago and now is supported by six other church organizations. Farmers from across the country contribute grain and money and that is matched or more than matched by CIDA.

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While some of CIDA's projects are occasionally and, I think, properly subject to public criticism, I do believe the vast majority of Canadians support this very practical program which ensures that some of our food surpluses are distributed directly to those who need them most.

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### CANADIAN RADIO-TELEVISION AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

#### BELL CANADA—RATE REBALANCING APPLICATION

**Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North):** Mr. Speaker, recently the CRTC directed telephone companies to reduce their long-distance rates. Naturally the bulk of the benefits will go to large business corporations. Today, apparently, Bell is going to make an application to the CRTC to permit a rate rebalancing program. That would mean a minimum increase of \$1 per month for every home-owner customer of Bell Canada. We oppose such an increase because it will mean the end of the universal telephone service which Canadians have enjoyed. We call upon the CRTC to reject that proposal of Bell Canada.

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● (1415)

### FORESTRY

#### IMPORTANCE TO NOVA SCOTIA AND NATIONAL ECONOMY

**Mr. Lawrence I. O'Neil (Cape Breton Highlands—Canso):** Mr. Speaker, forestry is of special concern to me. As a Nova Scotian, I am very concerned about an industry which directly and indirectly provides jobs for nearly 30,000 Nova Scotians. As a Canadian, I am concerned about an industry which puts \$28 billion into the national economy each year and provides 350,000 jobs. With regard to exports, we are all aware of the large amount of money which forest products earn. Last year that amounted to more than \$16 billion. According to the *Financial Post*, that will amount to \$17.5 billion this year. That is impressive.

As an M.P. from Cape Breton I can say that we were very pleased that the federal Government invested \$10 million in our forests in 1986. Cape Breton is the home of Stora Forest Industries, an important Christmas tree industry.

We are all aware of the importance of a healthy forest industry. The federal Government realizes the importance of forestry to Canadians. Since 1984 national forest renewal spending has more than quadrupled. This kind of commitment is essential if our forest industry is to continue to prosper. I urge the renewal of forestry agreements with Nova Scotia which are due to expire at the end of March.