

or to a follower of the Dalai Lama in Tibet, or to a Tamil in Sri Lanka, constitutes matters of equal importance.

Obviously Canada's ability to apply pressure is greater in some parts of the world than others, but unless our national concern about people everywhere is well understood around the world, expressed concern about conditions in some places can only be unconvincing.

Dealing with Central America, for example, it seems to me that Ottawa should not approve the requested \$15 million aid package to Nicaragua unless and until the Sandinistas cease their systematic attacks on Jewish Nicaraguans. Our Government has refused to reinstate aid for El Salvador and Guatemala on human rights considerations, and the same considerations should apply to Managua as well. Basic rights, Madam Speaker, should not be divisible on the basis of geography.

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THE ADMINISTRATION

CALL FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF DEPARTMENT OF CO-OPERATIVES

Mr. Stan J. Hovdebo (Prince Albert): Madam Speaker, the New Democratic Party has long supported the principles of the co-operative movement. In fact the roots of our Party are the same as those of the co-operative movement in the West.

Over the last 20 years co-operatives have experienced a tremendous growth and now have about 10.5 million members and over \$45 billion worth of assets. Co-ops market some 45 per cent of all Canadian agricultural products, including 80 per cent of the wheat crop and 60 per cent of dairy products. Canadian farmers buy 30 per cent of their farm supplies, including machinery, through co-operatives. Credit unions and caisses populaires provide from 25 per cent to 75 per cent of all retail financial services in the four western Provinces and Quebec. North America's largest consumer and financial co-ops are located in Calgary and Vancouver respectively.

In order to recognize the contribution of co-operatives to the economy, we call upon the Government to make them a permanent part of the economic structure by establishing a Department of Co-operatives, or at least a division, with the duty to co-ordinate co-operative involvement through the Government. Co-ops have more than proven the worth of their contribution to society, and it is high time that the Government officially recognized this contribution.

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[Translation]

PROVINCIAL AFFAIRS

QUEBEC LIBERAL PARTY LEADERSHIP CONVENTION—IMPACT OF ROBERT BOURASSA'S VICTORY

Mr. Robert Gourd (Argenteuil-Papineau): Madam Speaker, on Saturday, October 15, the Quebec Liberal Party elected

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Robert Bourassa as its new leader. His brilliant and overwhelming victory is a clear demonstration of what Mr. Bourassa represents for the people of Quebec. His words are incisive and his attitude inspires confidence. There is no doubt he will be able to draw the people of Quebec to the Quebec Liberal Party, which, with him as leader, brings new hope to Quebecers who have had enough of a péquiste and separatist Government. Madam Speaker, Mr. Bourassa's victory is a first step that may put Quebec back on the road to economic recovery.

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[English]

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

STATE OF ACCOMMODATION IN QUESNEL, B.C.

Mr. Lorne Greenaway (Cariboo-Chilcotin): Madam Speaker, as is the case in many Canadian towns and cities, Quesnel, British Columbia, has been long and well served by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. The detachment has joint municipal and provincial policing responsibilities, and costs are divided accordingly.

The Quesnel RCMP detachment, with its 42 officers and staff, has been housed in a section of the local Post Office-Manpower building for a number of years. This accommodation is an absolute disgrace, a fact that is well known to the city, the Province, the force, and the Department of Public Works.

Of a total area of approximately 2,400 square feet, which includes the cell blocks, working areas are restricted to 29 square feet per employee. This space, which is approximately five feet by six feet, must accommodate desks, chairs, filing cabinets and the like.

Air conditioning is a wild dream and the heating system is so bad that moisture condenses on the office floor, and frost often develops on the walls of the cells. The electrical wiring has been condemned by municipal, provincial, and federal inspectors. The staff sergeant must vacate his office for every private interview and breathalyzer test conducted as his is the only office with a door.

The officers working under these unbearable conditions must suffer in silence, but the staff has registered grievances with their respective unions. The situation is critical and can no longer be tolerated. The Solicitor General (Mr. Kaplan) must move to correct it immediately.

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DISARMAMENT

DANGERS OF ARMS RACE

Miss Pauline Jewett (New Westminster-Coquitlam): Madam Speaker, we are now beginning Disarmament Week, an internationally recognized observance of the dangers of the