

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Thursday, December 8, 1983

The House met at 2 p.m.

● (1405)

STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S.O. 21

[Translation]

PEACE

UNIVERSAL APPEAL BY PRIME MINISTER FOR DIALOGUE ON
PEACE AND DISARMAMENT—SUPPORT EXPRESSED IN
OTTAWA-VANIER

Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa-Vanier): Mr. Speaker, a significant part of the peace initiative of the Right Hon. Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) is directed towards a universal appeal for a dialogue on peace and disarmament. The humanitarian goals that the Prime Minister had set for himself were, in brief, to create an international political climate, to make constructive proposals on disarmament and to make the world aware of the impending nuclear holocaust. The Prime Minister's peace initiative has won wide support in my riding. I was particularly impressed by the spontaneous endeavour of an Algonquin College group which, with the support of its president, Mr. Brian Ash, has launched an open-letter campaign. This letter will bear the signatures of hundreds of people and will be published around Christmas in French and in English newspapers. I should like to read that letter.

Dear Fellow Canadians:

There are over four billion of us on earth. Our political ideologies, economic systems and religious beliefs are different. But, we do have one thing in common: we do not want to be killed by nuclear weapons and radioactive fallout . . . we and our children WANT TO LIVE.

Therefore, we support any peace initiative aimed at lessening tensions, restoring the dialogue, and eliminating the nuclear threat among the nations of the world. We urge our fellow Canadians and people throughout the world to tell their heads of state and state publicly in their respective countries that they WANT TO LIVE without the nuclear threat.

Mr. Speaker, I am convinced that my colleagues in the House will join me and commend the Algonquin College for this initiative.

[English]

THE SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

CONDEMNATION OF GOVERNMENT'S POLICIES AND ACTIONS

Mr. Gordon Taylor (Bow River): Mr. Speaker, an ex-Cabinet Minister of the Government said recently that this Liberal Government "operates on cynicism, ballyhoo and manipulation". The Throne Speech we heard yesterday is a masterpiece of ballyhoo and deception. While it was said in the Speech that an expanded shop Canadian program will be launched, one of the Government's own Ministers is urging Canadians to buy Russian-made farm machinery. A while ago the Soviet Communists shot down a Korean jet, murdering 10 Canadians, and the Russian Embassy would not even accept a note from the Canadian Government. Now this Cabinet is asking Canadians to ignore the investment in the manufacturing of farm machinery in Canada, to ignore jobs for Canadians, and buy communist-made farm equipment. Talk about cynicism!

Again it was said in the Speech that the Government "will take steps so that Canadians can be better assured of security, dignity and fulfilment in retirement". Yet this same Government has ruined the last years of hundreds of our farmers and businessmen who have spent some 50 years building up a nest egg for a decent retirement, through the cruel capital gains tax. Talk about ballyhoo!

The Liberal Member of Parliament for York West (Mr. Fleming) summed it up nicely when he said, and I quote, "If we (the Government) stay this way, we are dead". Right on! All we have to do now is to have an election so we can give this Liberal Government a decent burial.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY

PROPOSED RESTRICTIONS ON CANADIAN NEWSPRINT

Miss Aideen Nicholson (Trinity): Mr. Speaker, the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. MacEachen) met officials of the European Economic Community in Brussels on December 6 in an attempt to persuade them against imposing new restrictions on January 1, 1984, which could be prejudicial to Canada's \$450 million worth of exports of newsprint to the European Community. This question was on the agenda at the meeting in Newfoundland last May between members of the Canadian and European Parliaments, when Canadian parliamentarians from all Parties stressed the serious problem facing Canadian newsprint exporters in 1984 if the Commu-