

Canadian sugar-beet producers. In Ottawa today we have over 100 representatives of the 1,500 Canadian sugar-beet producers, from Alberta, Manitoba, and Quebec. Those people also represent approximately 1,200 industrial jobs in the three provinces, plus over 5,000 indirect jobs in machinery, fertilizer, chemical, and services industries.

Canada is the only western nation of some 41 which does not protect its domestic sugar industry. Eighty-five per cent of world sugar trades at prices set by the Governments of producing countries. Canada's price is determined by the 15 per cent which is world surplus. While this is good for consumers at the present price of four cents a pound, we should be reminded of what can happen if the price returns to its 1975 level of 83 cents a pound U.S. We need a policy which protects consumers during times of high prices and still maintains our industry during temporarily depressed world markets.

Our current domestic production of 12 per cent of consumption acts as our only real measure of protection. If we lose this, we will be 100 per cent dependent on large multinational companies and foreign Governments to supply this major staple in Canadian diets. Once this industry is gone it will be lost forever, as the start-up costs are high.

Time is of the essence. The 1985 crop must be planted now, and the growers need assistance to produce this year's crop, as well as consideration by the Government of a national sugar policy.

Mr. Speaker: I regret to inform the Hon. Member that his time has expired.

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NUCLEAR ARMAMENTS

PLEA FROM CHILDREN OF PARSONS POND, NFLD.

Mr. Brian Tobin (Humber-Port au Port-St. Barbe): Mr. Speaker, recently I received correspondence from the children of the community of Parsons Pond in my riding of Humber-Port au Port-St. Barbe.

Parsons Pond is a small rural community situated on the Great Northern Peninsula of Newfoundland. Like other communities situated on the Northern Peninsula, it lacks many of the facilities that are taken for granted in cities such as Ottawa. I refer to decent water, sewers, paved community roads, adequate recreational facilities for young people and, of course, enough job opportunities for the citizens of Parsons Pond.

These problems are constant irritants to the people of Parsons Pond, but they are not what the 10 children of Parsons Pond wrote me about. Let me quote directly from one of their letters:

Dear Mr. Tobin:

As a student in the community of Parsons Pond, nuclear destruction seems a long ways away. However, the incident is possible. Would you please do all in

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your power to make sure that the Canadian Government does everything in its power to prevent a Global War? We want to live to be adults in the future.

Thank you
Brent Caines

We are the bows from which our children are sent forth as living arrows. If their flight through life is to be long and fulfilling, then let us turn away from participation in the deadly nuclear game. Let Canada say absolutely not, instead of maybe, to the American invitation to participate in star wars development.

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WESTERN GRAIN STABILIZATION ACT

PAY-OUT ANNOUNCEMENT

Mr. Arnold Malone (Crowfoot): Mr. Speaker, on April 7 the Minister of State for the Canadian Wheat Board (Mr. Mayer) announced the largest pay-out in the history of the Western Grain Stabilization Fund. Prairie Canada was jubilant. The hard pressed agricultural economy was about to receive a respectable return from its own investment.

It was disappointing, however, that this announcement received barely a breath of comment from the major media. Those persons who sit above and behind you, Mr. Speaker, and whose duty it is to keep us pure, need to be informed and reminded of the importance of reporting on the world's most important industry, agriculture.

An Alberta observation is that the media are virtually never in the Legislature during an agricultural debate.

On the Continent of Africa, where malnutrition and starvation are rampant, not one Government gives even a moderate priority to agriculture. Sadly, it is a world fact that no national Government anywhere gives a top priority to agriculture. The peoples of the world have come to believe that agriculture lacks excitement. Yet every day 40,000 children under the age of five die of starvation.

The science and business of food production is an exciting and demanding challenge. Surely Doug Fisher could stand taller in the interest of agriculture. And I ask, rhetorically, of course, where is Mike Duffy when it comes to defending food? I tell those big reporters that there is a lot of the world that would like to "Eat Too, Brute".

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

LABOUR CONDITIONS

LEVEL OF UNEMPLOYMENT

Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. Last September 4, when the Prime Minister won the election, there were 1.385 million Canadians out of work. Seven months and