

S.O. 21

RAILWAYS

REQUEST THAT MINISTER INTERVENE TO PREVENT CLOSURE OF
CN SHOPS AT MONCTON

Mr. Fernand Robichaud (Westmorland—Kent): Mr. Speaker, last Thursday, Ports Canada, a Crown corporation, appeared before the Standing Committee on Transport. At one point, the discussion focussed on the port of Churchill in Manitoba. According to Ports Canada authorities, the port of Churchill is not profitable, and if it was up to them, it would be closed.

However, the Minister of Transport (Mr. Crosbie) has intervened and ordered Ports Canada to maintain the Churchill facilities. Good for him! This port represents the major economic activity in that part of Manitoba.

Why is this same Minister refusing to intervene in the case of Moncton to prevent the closing of the CN shops, which belong to another Crown corporation, and to save 1,000 jobs? It is a striking example of how this Government and its Ministers deal with the Atlantic region. They have set us adrift.

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[English]

CANADIAN WHEAT BOARD

INCREASED GRAIN EXPORTS

Mr. Geoff Wilson (Swift Current—Maple Creek): Mr. Speaker, despite the massive farm subsidy and export enhancement programs of the EEC and the United States, Canada's share of the world grain market continues to rise. During the past year Canada actually increased its share of world wheat sales by 1.5 per cent.

There are two reasons for this: first, the high quality of our Canadian wheat which puts it in demand, and second, the outstanding job being done by the Canadian Wheat Board in marketing Canadian grain in the face of fiercely competitive and, at times, hostile international markets.

The International Wheat Council forecasts that Canada's share of the world wheat market will increase even further in 1987, from 19.8 per cent to 21.5 per cent.

Clearly, the Canadian Wheat Board should be applauded for its marketing efforts. The Minister of State for the Canadian Wheat Board (Mr. Mayer) should also be congratulated for his initiatives both in seeking solutions to the international grain wars and in maintaining and enhancing Canada's export opportunities.

CANADIAN SOVEREIGNTY

CALL FOR REINTRODUCTION OF CANADIAN LAWS OFFSHORE
APPLICATION ACT

Mr. Dave Nickerson (Western Arctic): Mr. Speaker, it was well over one year ago that the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Clark), in the wake of the *Polar Sea* transit, announced a series of measures intended to protect and enhance Canadian sovereignty over our Arctic regions. Foremost amongst these initiatives was the Canadian Laws Offshore Application Act which was introduced into Parliament as Bill C-104 in April, 1986. This Act would have confirmed Canadian jurisdiction within the area defined by drawing straight base lines around the islands of the Arctic Archipelago.

Bill C-104 died on the Order Paper last June and to date it has not been reintroduced. What has happened to this Bill? Why has it not been brought back? Those of us who take more than just a passing interest in these matters would certainly like to know the reasons for the delay.

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● (1410)

HOUSING

SUPPORT URGED FOR CO-OPERATIVE HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS

Miss Aideen Nicholson (Trinity): Mr. Speaker, on Sunday, January 11, there was a sod-turning ceremony in my constituency for a new co-operative housing development, Tamil Co-operative Homes. Fortunately this project was approved before the Government reneged on its commitment to provide 5,000 new housing units under its new co-operative housing program.

Co-op housing makes a strong contribution to the housing issues facing Canadians. It is affordable and it is flexible, meeting the particular needs of seniors, families with children, and people with disabilities. Instead of reducing its support for co-operative housing, the Government should seriously reconsider this matter and demonstrate to Canadians that it is serious about assisting the thousands who are in need of decent affordable housing.

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[Translation]

YOUTH

IMPACT OF CHALLENGE '87

Mr. Fernand Ladouceur (Labelle): Mr. Speaker, the Minister of State for Youth (Mr. Charest) announced recently that our Government would be committing \$180 million under Challenge '87. This Government initiative is important to our young people. Last year, in the Labelle constituency alone,