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As a result of this situation, Candlelighters has proposed a federal caretakers allowance through the unemployment insurance program which would provide benefits in the same manner as individuals receive benefits for maternity and quarantine leave. Many other nations already have such a program in place and a Canadian initiative in this regard would be a worthwhile, progressive step that would make the lives of many distressed Canadians slightly more bearable.

I have written to ministers on this and the answer I get is that it would set a—

Madam Deputy Speaker: The hon. member's time has expired.

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REFUGEES

Mr. Geoff Scott (Hamilton—Wentworth): Madam Speaker, I am sure that every member in this Chamber wishes that she or he could personally do something, anything, to help the Kurdish refugees before they die on the muddy mountainsides of Iraq and Turkey. Even hardened news reporters can be heard dissolving at scenes like the sight of a three-year old girl, barefoot, ankle deep in mud, wearing a thin little dress and shivering in the steady drizzle. Days, even hours, count with these children.

Canada must urge the involvement of the United Nations at the highest level, and fast. We must break the bureaucratic and political logjam, and cut through the complexities of agencies like the World Food Program, UNICEF and others. I am urging that a special representative of the Secretary-General or some United Nations emergency contingent oversee relief efforts immediately.

If only for the sake of these kids, we have to get the United Nations effectively and quickly involved. Above all, we have to get rid of that monstrous mass murderer, Saddam Hussein, to permit the relocation of the Kurdish people in their own homeland.

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UNEMPLOYMENT

Mr. David Dingwall (Cape Breton—East Richmond): Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my frustration

and dismay with the Government of Canada regarding the recent unemployment statistics which have been released for the Island of Cape Breton, part of which is my constituency.

The figures released by employment and immigration state there is 22.2 per cent unemployment, which is the official record, whereas in some of the communities it ranges between 40 and 50 per cent.

I have called upon the Government of Canada, and in particular the Minister of Employment and Immigration, as well as the minister responsible for the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency, to put in place programs which will address the very serious situation on the Island of Cape Breton.

I believe there is an obligation, both legal and moral on the part of the Government of Canada to attempt to do everything humanly possible to alleviate the fear, the frustration and the anguish of a people who have been singled out by the Government of Canada for such bad economic policy.

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[*Translation*]

NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK

Mr. Guy Saint-Julien (Abitibi): Madam Speaker, National Volunteer week is from April 21 to 27. During that week, communities in all regions of the country will pay tribute to their volunteers and use the opportunity to celebrate caring for others and compassion, which hold a fundamental place in the life of Canadians. With their generosity and dedication, volunteers contribute to the betterment of their fellow citizens and strengthen the whole fabric of society.

Despite that, the great importance of what they do is not yet recognized by all. To better understand the real contribution of volunteers, let us consider it in economic terms. If a monetary value were assigned to all the hours freely given by members of Canadian volunteer organizations, it would amount to approximately \$13.2 billion a year. That is impressive to say the least.

Three cheers for Canada's volunteers!