

S.O. 21

EXTERNAL AID**ASSISTANCE NEEDED FOR FAMINE STRICKEN AFRICAN COUNTRIES**

Mr. Reg Stackhouse (Scarborough West): Mr. Speaker, in recent weeks Canadians have been shocked by television reports of mass starvation in Ethiopia. The Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Clark) and the Minister for External Relations (Mrs. Vézina) should be commended for their timely visit and intervention. However, Canada must become more conscious that Ethiopia is not a unique example. Africa holds 21 other countries with declining food capabilities. Their populations are growing faster than their per capita food productivity.

Shipping food to afflicted areas is a moral imperative which Canadians must accept in the short run, and, indeed, have shown themselves ready to accept. However, if other and equally tragic "Ethiopias" are to be avoided in the future, there is a greater need. We must make a sustained effort to enable the afflicted countries of Africa to expedite scientific agriculture and to develop vital infrastructures.

In 1975 it was predicted that 50 million people might starve to death within a decade. Never has a prophecy of doom been fulfilled with more horrendous accuracy. Never has a prophecy been more avoidable. Can the developed world now face a reality from which many turned away ten years ago? In the 18th century the western nations brought slavery to Africa. We now have a chance to renew its life.

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PENSIONS**DEMAND THAT SYSTEM BE REFORMED**

Hon. Douglas C. Frith (Sudbury): Mr. Speaker, in the Speech from the Throne on Monday afternoon the Government outlined what is supposed to be its blueprint for economic renewal and social justice. While I applaud the Government for committing itself to extending the spousal allowance, it comes as a grave disappointment to me that it has ignored the more than 160 recommendations for reform, which were contained in the report of the Parliamentary Task Force on Pension Reform, a report, which I remind Hon. Members, had the concurrence of all three Conservative members on that committee.

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Instead of concrete action the new Government has said it will "enter into negotiations and discussions with the provinces for a comprehensive overhaul of the Canadian pension system, including such matters as portability, vesting, survivor benefits, and pension coverage for women".

These are all much needed reforms and long overdue, but the Government was given a mandate on September 4 to change, not to study. The Canadian people do not want more discussions; they want action, and they want it now.

I therefore urge the Government to illustrate its commitment to pension reform by reforming the Canadian pension system and taking a lead role by tabling amendments to the federal Pension Benefits Standards Act.

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NATIONAL ENERGY PROGRAM**CALL FOR CUT IN GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURES**

Mr. Don Blenkarn (Mississauga South): Mr. Speaker, under the National Energy Program there are in existence two expensive and, in my view, totally redundant programs which represent a serious drain on the treasury and in reality are a transfer from government to the relatively affluent. I speak of the Canadian Oil Substitution Program—in other words, the new furnaces for old furnaces program—which puts \$800 in your jeans if you convert from oil to gas or whatever, a program which subsidizes the relatively well off to buy heat pumps so their homes can be air conditioned in summer. The other is the CHIP program under which we pay home owners, certainly not the most poverty stricken in our society, \$500 toward insulating their homes.

All forms of energy in Canada, Mr. Speaker, are now in surplus. World oil prices are falling, and producers are being directed not to produce. Indeed, they are being pro-rated. Why then spill out literally millions of taxpayers' dollars to those well enough off to own their own homes in order to encourage them to do what they ought to have done in the first place, to insulate; or to bribe them to buy new furnaces, heat pumps, and such devices. Surely there can be no justification for these programs.

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EMPLOYMENT**DECISION CONCERNING SALE OF CERTAIN CROWN CORPORATIONS**

Mr. Steven W. Langdon (Essex-Windsor): Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion (Mr. Stevens) announced that every effort is made to sell four Crown Corporations employing 10,000 Canadians.

We deeply regret that before taking such a decision, the government has not applied its philosophy of consultation. In the Speech from the Throne, there are many references to consultation and co-operation. The government referred to the importance of trade unions in Canada. However, their advice was not sought about the sale of those corporations. That is not the way an economic consensus can be reached. For the employees of such corporations, especially Canadair and de Havilland, that decision is quite dangerous. Many jobs could be lost. Mr. Speaker, we ask the government to consult the employees of those corporations.