

What a shame that once again the Canadian food industry and Canadian farmers were victimized by a sensational headline.

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### EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

#### LEBANON—CALL FOR ASSISTANCE FROM CANADIAN GOVERNMENT

**Mr. Jerry Pickard (Essex—Kent):** Mr. Speaker, we read with remorse about the worsening conditions of countries in the Middle East. The wars rage on and leave in their path the destruction of both property and life.

The people of Lebanon are under siege by the army of Syria and the lives of innocent men, women and children are sacrificed daily. Schools, hospitals and factories are being bombed indiscriminately.

In my riding of Essex—Kent, and the immediate surrounding area, some 15,000 Lebanese descendants fear for the lives of their friends and relatives in their homeland. These are lives that need not be wasted by the ravages of war.

I ask the Government to be steadfast in its commitment for peace and to voice that commitment to the United Nations. I ask the Government to take immediate measures to improve the immigration practices and to help with the transportation of those in need, and to assist innocent victims in being taken safely out of the areas of danger.

**Mr. Speaker:** I regret that the Hon. Member's time has expired.

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### UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

#### PROPOSED CHANGES IN PROGRAM—IMPACT ON RURAL AREAS

**Ms. Audrey McLaughlin (Yukon):** Mr. Speaker, while the Minister responsible for unemployment insurance attempts to rationalize cutting benefits and privatizing training programs, I want to cite an incident in my riding that illustrates one of the fundamental problems for working people in rural areas.

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A constituent of mine lives outside town. She has no car and there is no public transportation. She works fairly regularly and has been able to hitch-hike to work.

However, when she experiences a periodic lay-off and wants to look for work, she is told that she is not eligible for unemployment insurance because she does not have adequate transportation. That is obviously an assumption in policy created by someone with no understanding of rural life.

A similar instance is that of farmers who have been asked to leave farms in order to qualify for unemployment insurance benefits.

I call on the Minister to ensure that there is regional consultation in the unemployment insurance policy development and that rural Canadians are considered an important part of the workforce, as they are. It is time for the Government to understand the real needs of all Canadians.

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### CANADA POST

#### POSSIBLE CLOSURE OF POST OFFICE AT NEUSTADT, ONTARIO

**Mr. Gus Mitges (Bruce—Grey):** Mr. Speaker, the village of Neustadt in my riding of Bruce—Grey has had a post office for 120 years, and it is now in danger of losing it.

Neustadt is a municipality on the move. It is undergoing a dramatic transformation from a farm village to a crafts and tourist village, which has increased business and tourist use of the post office facilities. It is also the birthplace of the Rt. Hon. John George Diefenbaker, former Prime Minister of Canada. The home where he was born is being restored, which has generated and attracted a great deal of attention from all across Canada.

With the increased business being generated for the post office in Neustadt, Canada Post should allow its post office every opportunity to become a profit-generating enterprise and continue to be part of the lifestyle of its citizens.

I call on the Minister who speaks for Canada Post in the House, and I also call on Canada Post itself, to continue the Neustadt post office as a full-time, full-service post office.