

S.O. 21

fortitude and compassion to come to the defence of persecuted human rights activists incarcerated for exercising the right to live peaceably in the global community.

As a signatory of the 1975 Helsinki Accord, the Soviet Union is responsible for upholding the provisions of family reunification, freedom of conscience, freedom of travel, freedom of thought, and freedom of religion or belief. It must be held accountable for flagrant violations of that agreement. Future agreements with the Soviets hinge on their willingness to honour past agreements.

After many years of silence by the previous Liberal Government, we are happy to announce to Canadians that the Progressive Conservative Government actively defends, and will continue to defend, the rights of all persons who are exiled, persecuted, or unjustly imprisoned.

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WESTERN GRAIN STABILIZATION ACT

ANNOUNCEMENT OF INTERIM PAYMENT

Mr. John Gormley (The Battlefords-Meadow Lake): Mr. Speaker, many of us from Saskatchewan have welcomed this crop year's interim payment under the Western Grain Stabilization Act. It comes as good news that the Minister responsible for the Wheat Board (Mr. Mayer) has announced the interim payment at \$450 million. This is the largest single pay-out under this program, and for Saskatchewan farmers it will mean \$254.6 million. Farmers rightly claim that the grain stabilization program involves a large amount of their own money. They are correct, but in the past they suffered under a Liberal Government which never managed the program effectively and neglected western Canada. This pay-out now means a significant amount of money will be in the hands of producers before seeding.

Prior to the election our Party promised a fair and flexible grain stabilization program. The farmers wanted this, and they wanted our Government. Another promise made, another promise kept.

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VOLUNTARY ORGANIZATIONS

TAX CREDIT PROPOSAL

Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North): Mr. Speaker, volunteers, more than two million of them, work in thousands of organizations in fields as diverse as amateur sports, dramatics, health and welfare. If paid, their work would cost Governments billions of dollars. In this time of recession they are finding it increasingly difficult to finance their activities.

For a number of years the voluntary organizations called on the Government to eliminate the automatic \$100 deduction for charitable purposes permitted to all income tax payers, which the former Government did, and replace it by a give and take option whereby every taxpayer would be given a 50 per cent

tax credit for any contribution to a recognized charity. Such a method would eliminate the present unfair situation whereby people with high incomes, who pay income tax at a higher rate than people with low or middle incomes, can get a bigger deduction.

This proposal was endorsed by the NDP, and by the Progressive Conservative Party when it was in the opposition. I urge the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson) to incorporate this principle in the Income Tax Act when he brings forth his next Budget.

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[Translation]

VOLUNTARY ORGANIZATIONS

CONTRIBUTION MADE BY VOLUNTARY SECTOR

Mrs. Lise Bourgault (Argenteuil-Papineau): Today, Mr. Speaker, I want to pay homage to society's most innovating sector, the voluntary sector, which accounts for about 1.7 per cent of our GNP, employs nearly 200,000 people, and constitutes a network through which close to 25 per cent of Canadians generously give their time and energy.

This being the National Week of the Voluntary Sector, I would urge Hon. Members to consider the contribution made by that sector. It has proved able to find new and moderately-priced solutions to a wide variety of individual and collective needs. This spirit of community initiative has to be acknowledged as having a significant economic impact. There are many good reasons to keep a closer contact with the voluntary sector. First, it is the most efficient means to promote the active participation of citizens and to make Canadians prouder of themselves, while at the same time being a boon to society as a whole. Participation in community or cultural organizations and working together to meet the needs of the community create a confident and resourceful society.

In addition, the voluntary sector has shown leadership in job training. Youths, native women and the handicapped alike have all found promising training prospects and, in many instances, full time jobs.

I want to take this opportunity—

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

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● (1410)

[English]

AGRICULTURE

IMPORTANCE OF SUGAR-BEET INDUSTRY

Mr. Bob Porter (Medicine Hat): Mr. Speaker, I rise to inform Parliament of the urgent need to act on behalf of our