

S.O. 21

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. The Hon. Member's time, unfortunately, has expired.

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### AGRICULTURE

#### POTATO INSPECTION SERVICES IN PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

**Mr. Mel Gass (Malpeque):** Mr. Speaker, once again I would like to raise the issue of potato inspection on Prince Edward Island. The Prince Edward Island Women in Support of Agriculture have written to express their concern over the proposal by the federal Government to cut back on inspection services for potatoes. I must commend these women on their efforts to ensure that the potato industry is maintained and improved, not eliminated as the federal Government proposes.

I would like to impress upon the House the importance of the potato industry to the economy of Prince Edward Island. The potato industry on Prince Edward Island is as important to our economy as the wheat industry is to the West. Unless the quality of P.E.I. potatoes is maintained, we will no longer be competitive in the market, and will suffer great financial losses.

This is an Opposition day in the House. We are debating the Government's failure to counter regional disparity within the provinces of Canada. It is important for the Government to realize that, unless it takes action to assist the potato industry in P.E.I., it will be contributing to the present disparity in that province by negatively affecting the main contributor to the economy.

I urge that the Government take steps to realize the importance of the potato industry to the economy of P.E.I. and maintain the present level of potato inspection on the Island in an attempt to keep Prince Edward Island competitive in the potato industry.

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### MINES AND MINING

#### CAPE BRETON COAL MINING INDUSTRY—NEED FOR ASSISTANCE

**Mr. Howard Crosby (Halifax West):** Mr. Speaker, direct government involvement in ventures to assist regional industry is sometimes the only sensible course. The Cape Breton coal mining industry in Nova Scotia is a prime example.

The Government of Canada decided to participate in the coal mining industry in 1967 when the Cape Breton Development Corporation was established. While Devco has not enjoyed success in all its activities, the Corporation has provided employment for thousands of Nova Scotians in coal mining.

The disastrous fire on April 5, 1984, at No. 26 colliery ended the most extensive project in the Devco mining operation. This fire resulted in the tragic loss of a life, and immediately terminated the employment of 1,000 coal miners. These

Cape Breton coal miners, together with thousands of other Nova Scotians whose jobs depend on the coal mines, are looking to the Government of Canada for help through its Crown agency, Devco.

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Billions of dollars are spent by the Government to assist industrial activity in Canada, most recently in the aircraft industry. Nova Scotians, dependent on the Cape Breton coal mining industry, are merely asking the Government to honour its 1967 commitment, and provide a fair share of help to an industry in Atlantic Canada which needs and deserves assistance now.

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### HUMAN RIGHTS

#### RAOUL WALLENBERG—GRANTING OF HONORARY CITIZENSHIP URGED

**Mr. John Bosley (Don Valley West):** Mr. Speaker, the League for Human Rights of the B'nai Brith, supported by the Canadian Council of Christians and Jews, the Swedish-Canadian Chamber of Commerce, the Chinese-Canadian National Council, and the Fédération Internationale des Droits de l'homme, have asked the Secretary of State (Mr. Joyal) to declare Raoul Wallenberg an honorary citizen of Canada, and I wish to add my voice in support.

Mr. Wallenberg is known throughout the free world for his heroic efforts in rescuing 100,000 Jews from death at the hands of the Nazis during the Second World War. After the war he was arrested, and has remained imprisoned in the Soviet Union. In 1957 the Soviets claimed that he had died. However, reports continue to surface indicating that Mr. Wallenberg is alive.

In 1981 Mr. Wallenberg was declared an honorary citizen of the United States of America, only the second foreigner accorded that honour. The other was Winston Churchill. He has been nominated several times for the Nobel Prize, and is again nominated this year.

The Soviet Union continues to practise the worst cultural genocide against its Jews that we have seen in years. The Secretary of State has a rare and important opportunity, both to honour an extraordinary man for his extraordinary courage and commitment to human rights, and to signal to the Soviets that Mr. Wallenberg and all those for whom he fought should be freed and allowed to leave. I urge the Minister to act immediately.