

S. O. 21

[Translation]

CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION

PRESIDENT'S REPORTED DECISION NOT TO PROVIDE TELEVISED
NEWSCASTS TO SAGUENAY-LAC-SAINT-JEAN AREA POPULATION

Mr. Jean-Pierre Blackburn (Jonquière): Mr. Speaker, today an entire region was disappointed by the news that the President of the CBC, Mr. Pierre Juneau, has decided that the people of Saguenay—Lac-Saint-Jean will not get a televised news bulletin. Once more, the President of the CBC is hiding behind the facile excuse of budgetary cutbacks. I get the impression that the President of the CBC is taking these people hostage. Giving the region a televised news bulletin does not sound like a frill, when we have yet to receive full services.

Mr. Speaker, through you, I want to say this to Mr. Juneau: As the President of the CBC, you will get no glory if all you do is manage to maintain existing services according to what your budget allows. You will be remembered for the extra service provided where justified. What has to be done is already clear from the Caplan-Sauvageau report on our region.

* * *

[English]

AGRICULTURE

GRAIN FARMERS—CALL FOR GUARANTEED FINANCIAL RETURN

Mr. Maurice Foster (Algoma): Mr. Speaker, last month in the Budget we found out that the Government was going to make no commitment of funds for the new crop year for grain farmers. Last week we learned that grain prices this year will be 20 per cent below last year, well below the lowest price in real terms in the 1930s. Tens of thousands of farmers will not be able to get credit to plant their crops this year. Others will lose their farms.

I call on the Government to make a commitment now that farmers will get at least as much financial returns this year from their crops as they did last year.

In the same Budget there was no commitment for farmers facing a farm debt crisis, many of whom will lose their farms this year when the moratorium on farm credit loans is lifted. I call on the Government before the Government lifts that moratorium on farm credit loans to bring in a new program of assistance to farmers facing a desperate loss of land.

ABORTION

TRIBUTE TO SASKATCHEWAN PRO-LIFE ASSOCIATION

Mr. Bill Gottselig (Moose Jaw): Mr. Speaker, I was very pleased last week to meet with representatives of the Saskatchewan Pro-Life Association who travelled to Ottawa to present a brief to Saskatchewan Members. These people are very concerned about the millions of dollars in federal government grants being given to support organizations that require their members to hold a pro-abortion point of view in order to gain membership.

As we have heard in this House many times over the last few months, federal grant money does not seem to be available to organizations that hold a pro-life point of view. The Saskatchewan Pro-Life Association is a provincial organization representing the pro-life groups of Saskatchewan. I am pleased to report on the success of their education programs dealing with fetal development, the truth about abortion and the prevention-based sex education program, "Teen Aid". The abortion rate in Saskatchewan has dropped steadily over the last several years due in large measure to the excellent work being done by Saskatchewan pro-life groups. I commend them, Mr. Speaker, and urge them to keep up the good work.

* * *

● (1410)

VISIBLE MINORITIES

INTERNMENT OF JAPANESE CANADIANS DURING WORLD WAR II

Mr. Ernie Epp (Thunder Bay—Nipigon): Mr. Speaker, the matter of a proper redress for the dispossession and relocation Japanese Canadians suffered during the 1940s continues to await action by the Government. The present Minister responsible for multiculturalism has consulted with the National Association of Japanese Canadians as well as with others regarding redress. He has indicated that he intends to seek cabinet approval for a redress proposal, but he has not declared that the process he seeks is based on negotiation with the National Association of Japanese Canadians.

An honourable redress, one that will be acceptable to the Canadian people, is one that is negotiated with the national representatives of Japanese Canadian communities. It is one that encompasses the principle of individual compensation for losses of property and income. I call on the Minister responsible for multiculturalism to ensure that the redress process incorporates these principles. Canadians of many communities are watching anxiously to see how the Government removes this long-standing blot on our human rights record.