

S.O. 21

their economy, based on cotton, sugar and coffee, is in the most extreme danger. It can easily be destroyed by guerrilla action. There is already a CIA army in Nicaragua for that very purpose.

I call upon the Government of Canada and the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) to condemn the policies of the United States in that region of the world, and to look seriously at the peace proposal that was given by the Minister of External Affairs for Nicaragua to the Americans last Thursday, which was blatantly thrown out on Friday. Otherwise, that part of the world could become a new Vietnam, a regional war.

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[Translation]

THE ECONOMY

NATIONAL ENERGY PROGRAM—IMPACT ON
SAGUENAY-LAC-SAINT-JEAN REGION

Mr. Pierre Gimaiel (Lac-Saint-Jean): Madam Speaker, about ten days ago, the newspaper *Le Soleil* published an article confirming that Alcan had sent written notice to Gaz Inter-Cité Québec Inc. of its firm intention of purchasing several hundred million cubic metres of gas over the coming years. Madam Speaker, I am delighted with this decision, especially since it means that from \$230 to \$240 million will be invested, in addition to what the Canadian Government is already doing for the Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean area to develop the economy during the coming year. The Company has already sent an application to the Canadian Government and, more specifically, to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Chrétien), for the release of necessary funding for construction of a section of the gas pipeline that is vital to our economy. Once again, I want to point out to the people in my riding and in the region generally that natural gas is coming to Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean because a national energy program was established by the Canadian Government and by the present Minister of Finance (Mr. Lalonde) when he was Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, to develop our economy and attract investment for the creation of permanent jobs in our region, with the objective of helping resource regions like ours to achieve the kind of infrastructure that will help us take advantage of our full development potential in the years to come.

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● (1410)

[English]

POLITICAL PARTIES

FORMER NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY CANDIDATE'S SUPPORT FOR
PRIME MINISTER

Mr. Benno Friesen (Surrey-White Rock-North Delta): Madam Speaker, Mr. James Stark of Operation Dismantle

spoke at White Rock on Thanksgiving Day. He said, among other things, of the Leader of the Official Opposition:

... I really don't want to prejudge him, but I think we are actually better off with Trudeau than with Mulroney, and that's saying something. However—and I am saying this everywhere and I want to be very clear about this—I vote NDP. I was an NDP candidate.

There it is, Madam Speaker. Finally someone who has been an official spokesman for the New Democratic Party has come out of the closet. We have known for some time that the marriage between the New Democratic Party and the Liberals was consummated in secret. Now the vows have been pronounced in public. It is refreshing to hear at least one member of the NDP who is not ashamed of his marriage partner.

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CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION

INCREASE IN NUMBER OF EXECUTIVES

Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North): Madam Speaker, on Monday of this week the Minister of Communications (Mr. Fox) made an announcement describing the plans of the Government for the future of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. Both the vagueness of the document and the failure of the Minister and the President of the CBC to clarify the goals of the Corporation, and the means of achieving those goals, have led to a questioning of the intentions of the Government in this matter.

Indications are that 500 production level employees of the Corporation will be laid off because the Minister has stated new programming must be paid for by "increased efficiencies", which is a euphemism for lay-offs. While we were asked to accept employment cuts so new production can get rolling, six new vice-presidents have been appointed in the CBC, and the Minister and the President of the CBC propose to create a new and undoubtedly well-paid position of chairperson of the board. Production level firings and increases in executive levels only reinforce the growing bureaucraticism and centralization within the CBC. Production and programming decisions increasingly are made in Ottawa, which is isolated from production centres.

If the Corporation is to improve service to Canadians, produce exciting and stimulating drama, and meet its objectives, where is the money to come from? The Minister sets out a mandate for the Corporation without providing the means to bring it about. The Minister, since his announcement Monday, has been absent from the House. He is unavailable to answer the questions of the Opposition on his plans for the CBC.

Madam Speaker: Order, please. The Hon. Member's time has expired.