

S.O. 21

cholesterol content, and is a healthy way of obtaining our protein needs.

Since I had the honour of becoming a Member of Parliament in 1979, I have had the opportunity to do a considerable amount of air travel between Prince Edward Island and Ottawa. During these flights I have never been offered a serving of fish as a meal. I would like to point out that frozen, prepackaged fish is economical and enjoyable. I feel that fish should be offered on board airplanes as it would help increase fish consumption in Canada, therefore assisting the fishing industry by providing a better market for fish products.

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EXTERNAL AID**PRIORITY SUGGESTED FOR FRIENDLY NATIONS**

Mr. Ron Stewart (Simcoe South): Mr. Speaker, Canadians can rightfully be proud of their country's foreign aid contributions to the world's underdeveloped countries. This Party is in complete support of the principle of supplying aid where and when it is needed.

We must be concerned, however, when the European Parliament is investigating reports that western aid is actually being sent to the Soviet Union. We also hear reports that Ethiopia is spending 40 per cent of its budget on its army, instead of feeding its starving citizens. Meanwhile, CIDA allocates \$10 million in food to Ethiopia this year, the same amount as last year. Do we know where it is going?

Has the Government not learned a thing from the Fiasco in Haiti in 1981, when a \$21 million project had to be scrapped because of waste, proven corruption, and featherbedding?

Potential recipients of our largesse are not necessarily the poor and the starving. In too many cases the aid is siphoned off into the pockets of the powerful and wealthy leaders of one-party governments. Why not give priority to nations friendly to Canada, and cut off aid for nations politically hostile to Canada? Was there no lesson in Grenada? Is the U.S. stand on UNESCO in vain?

Liberal economic policies have put us in the same league as Mexico, another bankrupt nation, both of us with billion dollar deficits. We can ill afford to squander the taxpayers' hard earned dollars that Revenue Canada goes to such harassing lengths to collect, on propping up inefficiently run, one-party dictatorships that are politically unfriendly both to us and to the entire notion of democracy and human rights.

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COMMUNICATIONS**POSSIBILITY OF COST INCREASES FOR LOCAL TELEPHONE CALLS**

Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North): Mr. Speaker, some very dramatic developments in the telephone industry threaten

to have a major impact on the very excellent telephone system upon which Canadians have come to depend.

Applications have been made to allow competition in the provision of long distance telephone service. This will force the separation of local and long distance telephone services. Big companies will benefit and be able to negotiate discounts on long distance service. The losers will be the average consumer who makes local calls. The telephone companies are now suggesting that local customers be charged for every individual call, with each call metered. Projections in the United States estimate that the cost of local service will increase up to 100 per cent in the near future.

The victims will be the old and the infirm, who depend on the telephone during the hard winter months to keep in touch with friends and family, the small business person who depends on the telephone to generate business activity, and others who depend on the telephone to improve their quality of life. The Government and the Minister of Communications must make a commitment to protect the consumer, the aged, and the small business person, from the threatening implications of deregulation of long distance telephone services.

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CANADA PENSION PLAN**ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA GOVERNING DISABILITY PENSIONS**

Mr. Stanley Hudecki (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, it is a concern that in our society we have many people who are seeking in Canada Pension Plan disability benefits but who are experiencing considerable difficulty in obtaining that pension.

According to the conditions for receiving such a pension, there must be medical evidence that a person is completely disabled from doing any type of gainful employment. However, many people in this category are stymied in their request for a disability pension due to the assessment made by their attending physician to the effect that they are fit for light duties.

The problems that exist are, first, that many of these people with disabilities have spent many years at some specific employment which, for the most part, requires considerable physical activity, and consequently they have not acquired the skills or the experience to take on any other type of job.

Second, in this period of economic stress it is difficult for these people, for the most part individuals of just under retirement age, to find light, unskilled jobs.

Third, the requirement to obtain a precise medical report which is based on the thorough and complete history taking, and physical examination usually by a specialist, to qualify for a disability pension, is a major obstacle for the average person.

I feel that there should be more flexibility exercised by the Department of Health and Welfare and that criteria other than strictly medical ones should be used to decide whether or not such an individual qualifies for a disability pension. It