

the branch line has been torn up, removed by the CPR. What is wrong with having the option available under this legislation, in the interest of keeping the elevators operating in the community, to allow the community to carry on with its small businesses as a centre of commerce for farmers who come in to deliver grain? What is wrong, I ask Members of the NDP, with having the option available in Arelee Saskatchewan, to truck grain?

Mr. McKnight: And Sonningdale.

Mr. Hnatyshyn: The same situation obtains in Sonningdale, my colleague, the Hon. Member for Kindersley-Lloydminster (Mr. McKnight), points out. Members of the NDP want to remove from the legislation the possibility of alternative methods with respect to the shipment of grain and maintenance of elevators.

What about the other branch line which is under review in my constituency, the Carleton line, as mentioned by the Hon. Member for Prince Albert? This line extends from my constituency. Mr. Justice Hall, in his examination of that particular line, did not allow it to be maintained as part of the permanent network.

I see, Mr. Speaker, that it is now one o'clock. I would like to continue my remarks after resumption of the debate.

[Translation]

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. It being one o'clock, I do now leave the chair until two o'clock this afternoon.

At 1 p.m. the House took recess.

AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 2 p.m.

STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S.O. 21

[English]

NUCLEAR ARMAMENTS

SOVIET MISSILE STRENGTH

Mr. Len Hopkins (Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke): Madam Speaker, world history has proven that the matching of aggressive power with the balancing power structure tends to maintain peace, but any signs of weakness simply invite an aggressor to move forward.

Let us remember and state very clearly that we wanted no missiles but that the Soviets would not have a zero zero solution. Let us not forget that while Cruise missiles are said to be unverifiable, Soviet proposals have never allowed for verification. Let us remind ourselves also that the Soviet Union has already tested the Cruise missile.

When we weary of being told that we must not deploy, that we must negotiate, and that we are fuelling the arms race, recollect for a moment just who has hundreds of intermediate

range nuclear forces in the field and who has none. NATO has none at the present time but, as a contrast in part, the Soviet Union has more than 360 SS-20s with a range of 5,000 kilometres, or more than 3,100 miles, and each SS-20 has three warheads.

Who proposed negotiations in the first place? NATO. Who dismissed negotiation out of hand four years ago? The Soviets. Who is withdrawing more warheads than may be deployed? NATO. Who deploys new missiles and keeps the old ones as well? The Soviet Union. Who is seeking balance? NATO. Who is threatening to field even more weapons if current imbalances are remedied even partially? The Soviets.

Madam Speaker: Order. The Hon. Member's time is finished.

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INDUSTRY

COST OF ESTABLISHING HELICOPTER MANUFACTURING PLANT

Mr. Girve Fretz (Erie): Madam Speaker, it has finally been announced publicly that Bell Textron has received the contract to build helicopters. Every Canadian man, woman, and child will be subsidizing the plant to the tune of \$10.60. That represents over \$5 million from the Niagara region alone, a region that is known as the unemployment capital of Canada, with a staggering unemployment rate of 21.7 per cent as of January, 1983. In September that figure was still 16.3 per cent, the highest in the country. Yet the Niagara region, where plant, facilities and skilled workers are available, loses contracts to other areas of the country where unemployment is less serious.

The Bell helicopter decision is only one example. Another is the case of the Port Weller drydock which did not receive a contract for building an icebreaker despite all the money which has been directed to improving the shipbuilding industry.

Most of these funds, unfortunately, end up in the ridings or home towns of Liberal front benchers. When will the Government throw aside political considerations and give thought to the crucial issue of regional unemployment levels, expertise, and plant facilities, in deciding where the taxpayers' money is directed for creating jobs in this country called Canada?

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[Translation]

EMPLOYMENT

ESTABLISHMENT OF HELICOPTER MANUFACTURING PLANT AT MIRABEL, P.Q.

Mr. Robert Gourd (Argenteuil-Papineau): Madam Speaker, last Friday, the Government of Canada announced that Bell Helicopter would establish a plant at Mirabel for the manufacture of light twin-engine helicopters. Contrary to what my hon.