

S. O. 21

On behalf of those Canadians who believe in peace and good will as more than simply platitudes, I ask the Government of Canada once again to provide the facilities, personnel and leadership to co-ordinate our efforts to help the people of Ethiopia.

* * *

[Translation]

FREE TRADE

PROTECTION OF PRESENT BENEFITS

Mr. Guy St-Julien (Abitibi): Mr. Speaker, Barraute's Précibois Company in Abitibi has been exempted from the 15 per cent tax on softwood lumber exports to the United States since December 30, 1986.

The exemption is not a mistake but the outcome of an American 100-page questionnaire to which company president Clément Julien responded: never did his firm receive grants from Quebec for stumpage rights or for his plant.

Précibois has 40 workers on the payroll, produces 30 million board metres, two thirds of which are exported to the United States.

The latest rumour in Ottawa is that, as of January 1, 1988, this Barraute firm will have to pay a 15-per-cent levy on its exports.

Mr. Speaker, the Province of Quebec is now party to the negotiations, so why penalize this Barraute company in Abitibi which had already won its case?

* * *

[English]

COPYRIGHT

BILL C-60—TIME TAKEN TO ENACT

Mrs. Sheila Finestone (Mount Royal): Mr. Speaker, who in her wildest dreams would think that a Bill on Canadian copyright could plunge us into a world of mystery and intrigue? Who would dream that the mother of this Bill, the Minister of Communications (Miss MacDonald), would resort to whispered behind-the-curtain warnings to an innocent Member of Parliament who is only trying to do her work?

It has happened to me. The Minister of Communications spoke to me behind the curtain the other day and said that my amendments to Bill C-60 were holding up this vital Bill and that the cultural community would know of my crime. Has the Minister forgotten her vital links? I have not. They are key to the Bill.

I was surprised but not easily intimidated, for this Bill was nine of ninth on the government shopping list. I stuck to my

guns, so to speak, but sure enough several telephone calls to my office from members of the cultural community confirmed that indeed I was being accused of obstructing the progress of the Bill. Since when has putting forth amendments to a Bill been considered unjustified intrigue, particularly a Bill that was so flawed?

Has this Minister given up on the democratic system? Has she forgotten that copyright is about fair balance between the rights of creators and the rights of users, or has she gone entirely into the world of James Bond? I have not. The heavy correspondence to my office from the cultural community assures me that I have helped the Minister to put the Bill on the right track. The timing problems are hers and the Government's, not mine.

* * *

THE MEDIA

COLUMNISTS—CHRISTMAS WISHES

Mr. Dave Nickerson (Western Arctic): Mr. Speaker, everyone knows that it is not really the rat pack opposite that forms the real Opposition. Rather, it is our good friends, the newspaper columnists. From the uninspired mumblings of Jeffrey Simpson to the venom-dipped pen of Claire Hoy, they do a great job of filling up the space between advertisements.

This freedom of the Press means submission to the maulings of the great fuffzifier and occasional plagiarist, Alan Fotheringham. Charlie Lynch might be pardoned for telling the odd lie, but Peter Worthington can never be forgiven for speaking the truth. The most intelligent columnist might well be Ronald Anderson, but no one has ever stayed awake past the first two paragraphs to find out.

● (1150)

God bless them all.

Mr. Speaker: I suppose "Merry Christmas" comes in different ways.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Member for Churchill.

Mr. Murphy: That's certainly an act I would not try to follow, Mr. Speaker.

* * *

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION

RATIFICATION OF CONVENTIONS

Mr. Rod Murphy (Churchill): We have heard the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) and his Minister of Justice (Mr.