

S. O. 31

Philip Tyas of Bolton comments: "Too many people place responsibility on the 'government' for all their ills and blame it for all their own shortcomings. Too few people now believe they should take responsibility for their own welfare".

Ronald Champagne of Burlington writes: "We need to educate, motivate, make people feel good about who they are and what role they play in making our country the best in the world. When you feel good about yourself, you are more productive. Productivity drives the economy."

My constituents thank you for the ongoing opportunity to put their thoughts before Parliament.

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INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Ms. Catherine Callbeck (Malpeque): Mr. Speaker, I rise today in commemoration of International Women's Day to recognize and celebrate the achievements of women.

As we reflect upon the important contributions women have made to our society over the years, let us join together in an effort to continue our fight to eliminate violence and discrimination against women.

Canadian women, from Nellie McClung, a pioneer of the women's suffrage movement, to Dr. Roberta Bondar, Canada's first woman in space, have provided women with inspiration to achieve their goals and contribute their full potential to society. Yet, despite these accomplishments, we still have a long way to go. The statistics speak for themselves.

At least one in every 10 women is battered by her husband or male partner. Women earn 66 per cent of men's salaries and only 2 per cent of executives are women.

It is paramount that we continue to promote the equality of all women, not just on International Women's Day, but every day.

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[Translation]

SOFTWOOD LUMBER INDUSTRY

Mr. Guy Saint-Julien (Abitibi): Mr. Speaker, the U.S. commerce department has announced its preliminary

ruling on Canadian softwood lumber. It is totally unfounded and unjustified. I can see no reason to hold an inquiry considering that softwood production is not subsidized in Canada or in Quebec.

• (1410)

Right now, the major American forest company Georgia Pacific Limited controls the U.S. commerce department and imposing a countervailing duty would only undermine President Bush's credibility in Canada.

Mr. Speaker, the viability of the forest industry in Abitibi must be preserved. We must fight this American action all the way and win for the sake of the Canadian and Quebec forest product producers.

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[English]

SOFTWOOD LUMBER INDUSTRY

Mr. Brian L. Gardiner (Prince George—Bulkley Valley): Mr. Speaker, Friday's ruling by the U.S. commerce department that Canada unfairly subsidizes our softwood lumber exports is unfair and unjustified.

The allegation about B.C.'s log export restrictions are hypocritical since the U.S. does the same thing.

Canadians who work in the over 300 forestry-dominated communities in our country will be hurt by this decision. We cannot have a repeat of the 1986 Conservative sell-out of our forests which the Prime Minister said was good for Canada.

What Canadians realize from this is that the free trade agreement is not working and that we are facing an ongoing series of trade disputes. The decision on our softwood lumber means that a trade war has started over our forests and that people working in this industry cannot rest until the free trade agreement is scrapped and we get Canadian trade back on an even keel.

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[Translation]

MONETARY POLICY

Mr. Alfonso Gagliano (Saint-Léonard): Mr. Speaker, this government continues to pursue its inconsistent and devastating monetary policy. Not only does it have the effect of slowing down sales for Canadian exporters, but in February alone, this government had to spend \$1.08 billion just to maintain it.