

*Oral Questions*

• (1415)

Initiatives such as the changes to the SBLA and those of Scotiabank have set the stage. I insist that now is the opportune and appropriate time for us to press forward.

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**PEACEKEEPING**

**Mr. Jesse Flis (Parkdale—High Park):** Mr. Speaker, in the midst of the human tragedy we know as Bosnia-Herzegovina emerge remarkable heroes, men and women from many nations. First there are Canadian peacekeeping forces. Some 1,200 Canadian troops and 45 RCMP monitors are putting their lives on the line every day. We must not forget the family members of our forces here at home. They feel the risks more than anyone.

Just today British helicopters airlifted two Canadians wounded during the massive effort to save the town of Srebrenica.

We have French General Philippe Morillon who took over as the top UN commander from our own General Lewis Mackenzie. He is making a heroic stand to save the 60,000 civilians of that town.

We must not forget Larry Hollingsworth, a former British army officer who is now serving with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees. He arrived in Bosnia directly from Somalia last July.

I call on all members of the House to recognize these brave, unsung heroes today.

**Some hon. members:** Hear, hear.

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**TRADE**

**Mr. Bob Horner (Mississauga West):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to draw your attention to a benefit of the free trade agreement of which many Canadian companies should be made aware.

I cite the case of Gray Tools of Brampton, Ontario. After the free trade agreement this old, family-owned Canadian firm was allowed to join a U.S. trade association, the American Supply Machinery Manufacturers Association. It formerly excluded Canadians and hosts one of the most important trade shows in the North American industry.

As a result of its first trade show last year, Gray Tools picked up 17 new customers. The new contacts and exposure it has gained have boosted U.S. sales to 40 per cent of total sales from just 25 per cent in 1988.

Aleck Gray, president of the company said: "As far as our exports are concerned the free trade agreement is only positive. While our Canadian sales were lagging through the recent recession, our U.S. sales were roaring along".

Now that is good news for the firm's several hundred employees.

**ORAL QUESTION PERIOD**[*Translation*]**THE ECONOMY**

**Ms. Sheila Copps (Hamilton East):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance. Last night, in a speech to a gathering in Toronto the Minister of the Environment said that Canadians are concerned about the school dropout problem, the unemployment rate which is too high and the increase in poverty. The minister added that young people's problems are due to a sick economy, not the school system.

Does the Minister of Finance agree with his colleague that the economy is sick and that it is hurting young people? Will he correct this situation in the next budget by creating new programs specifically addressing youth?

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, the Minister of the Environment never made such a statement about the economy being sick. He pointed out some problems that exist, but indicated the major efforts made by the Minister of Finance and the government that have given us the lowest interest rates in 21 years, the lowest inflation in 30 years, the lowest mortgage rates in 35 years and a growth rate—

**An hon. member:** What about unemployment?

**Mr. Mulroney:** Yes, a lower unemployment rate than when you Liberals were in power. That is the reality. That is what the Minister of the Environment said and we are ready to wage an election campaign on our economic record in due course.