

S. O. 21

concentrating corporate power at the expense of local ownership and control.

I urge the Parliament of Canada to listen to these words of wisdom from co-operatives in Atlantic Canada.

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[Translation]

#### ORDER OF GREY NUNS—250TH ANNIVERSARY

TRIBUTE, THANKS, AND WISH FOR LONG LIFE

**Mr. Gabriel Fontaine (Lévis):** This year we are celebrating the 250th anniversary of the Grey Nuns. We pay tribute to *Marguerite d'Youville*, the founder of the Order of the Grey Nuns. Her work, continued for two and a half centuries by a group of exceptionally dedicated women, quietly involved in meeting the daily needs of the community, has given us hospitals, schools, orphanages, and shelters for the needy.

Is there a family in Quebec that does not have at least one relative with the Grey Nuns? We have all known the excellent services they provide, and many of us still enjoy those services provided by the Grey Nuns. They are not dead. They will never die. Their material achievements may perish, but the education and philosophy of life these women have inculcated in our mothers, aunts, cousins, sisters and brothers that, Mr. Speaker, will not die. It is a lasting intellectual and social contribution that will continue to grow. I wish to pay tribute to our Grey Nuns and say a heartfelt thank you and long may they live!

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#### TECHNOLOGY

OUTMODED PAY PROCESSING IN CERTAIN CANADA  
EMPLOYMENT CENTRES—NEED TO SPEED UP ISSUANCE OF PAY  
CHEQUES FOR WORKERS

**Mr. Gilles Grondin (Saint-Maurice):** Mr. Speaker, we live in an age where modern technology is serving us in many ways. Thanks to advanced technology, repetitive tasks can be done at very high speed, and considering the state of our technology today, it is hard to believe that in 1987, some Canada Employment Centres continue to use a practically obsolete system for issuing pay cheques.

Mr. Speaker, our employment centres use a manual system for processing cards used to issue pay cheques to participants in the Manpower Adjustment Program. This extremely primitive system is responsible for delays of from 15 days to three weeks in issuing pay cheques. It is very inconvenient for the workers concerned, who, in many cases, cannot afford to wait that long for their pay cheque.

The CECs say they are snowed under, and they realize that the system penalizes the workers. An efficient way must be found as soon as possible to accelerate the processing of these pay cheques. Our solution might be to computerize the card processing system. In any case, this intolerable situation should not be allowed to go on. When will the responsible Minister take action and put an end to the delays in issuing Manpower Adjustment Program cheques?

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● (1410)

[English]

#### TRADE

SUPPORT FOR CANADA-UNITED STATES TRADE AGREEMENT

**Mr. Jim Jepson (London East):** Mr. Speaker, the recent signing of a free trade agreement is being positively received by most Canadians. As can be expected, it is being criticized by the "Old Democratic Party" and the Liberals.

I quote from *The Globe and Mail* of October 7, 1987:

Canada's free trade deal with the United States looks stronger as we get to know it.

It does not threaten Canada's social programs, including regional development schemes.

It does not affect Canada's cultural industries and policies. It does not threaten the automobile industry. In fact, the essential feature of the auto pact—duty-free access to the United States—will be more secure in a comprehensive deal that also stiffens North American content requirements. It does not threaten agricultural marketing boards or the supply management system.

These are things free trade does not do that its critics demanded that it should not do.

I commend *The Globe and Mail* for its objectivity.

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#### MARINE SAFETY

OPPOSITION TO DESTAFFING WEST COAST LIGHT STATIONS

**Mr. Ray Skelly (Comox—Powell River):** Mr. Speaker, opposition continues to grow to the Tory Government's plan to automate and destaff West Coast light stations.

The Coast Guard and the Minister of Transport (Mr. Crosbie) seemed oblivious to the fact that no one, aside from them, wants this change.

Even the members of the B.C. Conservative caucus have joined municipal and regional leaders, fishermen, recreational boaters and lightkeepers in opposing this action. Last week the Minister of Transport rejected his B.C. colleagues' intervention, suggesting that they are even more irrational than the bureaucrats.