

S.O. 21

first heard of this system, and on his return to Canada he lobbied for a similar system. The rest is history.

The fingerprinting system is the most positive means of identification available. It can safely be said that Canada's record keeping and fingerprinting systems are among the best in the world. We owe a debt of gratitude to the ingenuity, persistence, and foresight of Inspector Foster, and also to the capable men and women of today's RCMP who are continuing the excellence of the fingerprinting system.

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[Translation]

THE ECONOMY

ALLEGED STATEMENT BY SECRETARY OF STATE ON QUEBECERS' COMPETENCY IN ECONOMIC MATTERS

Mr. Jean-Claude Malépart (Montreal—Sainte-Marie): Mr. Speaker, a report in today's *Le Devoir* indicates that 59 per cent of Quebecers are dissatisfied with the Conservatives.

Mr. Speaker, I should like to tell the Secretary of State (Mr. Bouchard) that, notwithstanding his low opinion of Quebecers' know-how in economic endeavours, 59 per cent of them are dissatisfied precisely because of the Conservative Government's mismanagement of economic affairs. The issues of Domtar, Gulf, Matane, Port-Cartier, Desbiens and the shipyards immediately come to mind.

Mr. Speaker, I would hope that the Secretary of State will apologize to Quebecers for insulting them by suggesting that they are not quite as competent as their English-speaking fellow citizens when it comes to economic matters.

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TRIBUTE TO DESJARDINS GROUP

OPENING OF BANK IN TORONTO

Mr. Gabriel Fontaine (Lévis): Mr. Speaker, I should like to draw the attention of the House to today's opening of the first Toronto office of the Desjardins Group.

Created in 1900 by Alphonse Desjardins, the group's first *caisse populaire* opened its door in Lévis. This co-operative financial institution is owned by more than four million members, most of them Quebecers.

Its 24,000 employees, supported by 18,500 volunteer board members, now administer \$26 billion in assets through 1,400 affiliated *caisses*.

From its Lévis head office located in the riding of Lévis the Desjardins Group has launched a new expansion drive to diversify its clientele and its loan portfolio.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to see the Desjardins Group expanding into the Toronto area. Let us pay homage today to all employees and management staff of the Desjardins Group, particularly to its founder Alphonse Desjardins.

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[English]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

NAVY PARTICIPATION IN HAWAIIAN ISLAND SHELLING EXERCISE

Mr. Jim Fulton (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, in a matter of days, Canadian naval vessels will begin shelling the sacred Hawaiian Island of Kahoolawe despite the fact that the State's Senate and Congress formally demand that the five RIMPAC countries, Canada, Australia, the United States, Japan and New Zealand, stop the bombing and return the island to Hawaiian control. Canada has consistently ignored this plea, and in 1984 under Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau was the only foreign country to shell the island.

Japan, and now New Zealand and Australia, are refusing to participate in the shelling, out of respect for the indigenous people of Hawaii.

● (1110)

This island is of deep cultural, religious, historic, and scientific significance. There are 544 recognized archaeological sites on the island. It is not just the Hawaiian people who are outraged at the insensitivity of the Conservative Government. All major peace and church groups have registered their protest.

Would Canadians stand by and witness a foreign military bomb Vancouver Island or the Queen Charlotte Islands, or shell our graveyards? No, they would not. Given the dozens of letters I have personally received on the issue, Canadians will not stand for our complicity in this act of military hooliganism.

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TRADE

EXPORTS TO PACIFIC COUNTRIES

Mrs. Mary Collins (Capilano): Mr. Speaker, last year Canada's exports to the Asia-Pacific region were \$15.2 billion, surpassing our total exports to western and eastern Europe combined. Thus the recent visit of the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) to meet with top leaders of Japan, China, and Korea was both timely and important.

The success of his major initiative is evident in the positive responses received from Japan in respect of easing its building codes, which would assist exports of B.C. lumber, and Korea's agreement to cut tariffs on canola and open up its markets to