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[English]

GASOLINE ADDITIVES

Mr. Garth Turner (Halton—Peel): Madam Speaker, today UCO Petroleum has announced its intention to open 19 retail outlets in Ontario for the sale of gasohol, an environmentally friendly alternative to gasoline.

Gasohol is made by blending 10 per cent ethanol with 90 per cent gasoline. It actually produces more octane to car engines while producing less of the emissions that cause things like acid rain and the greenhouse effect.

I rise to congratulate UCO Petroleum and also the Minister of Finance. Today's announcement comes as a direct result of the federal government's budget announcement to remove the federal excise tax on ethanol and methanol in blended fuels.

This is environmental, economic and agricultural leadership on the part of UCO Petroleum and the government. I am sure all members of the House will add their encouragement and support of gasohol, Canada's future fuel.

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BANK OF COMMERCE

Mr. Ray Skelly (North Island—Powell River): Madam Speaker, 22 women in Powell River, British Columbia, are on strike against the Bank of Commerce. The Bank of Commerce runs its Powell River branch with strike-breakers brought from Vancouver Island every day.

This situation is grossly unfair. The bank does not have to bargain in good faith with these women. As a matter of fact, the bank would rather crush these women in their strike as an example to their other employees.

As a result, organized labour in the province of British Columbia is planning to carry out a province-wide boycott against the Bank of Commerce in order to carry the message of these women and the plight of these women to the entire province.

This is completely unnecessary. If the Minister of Labour would use his good offices to try and get both parties back to the bargaining table to find a solution to this, rather than the continued harassment and exploitation of these women by an organization that has assets of tens of billions of dollars and annual profits of—

Madam Deputy Speaker: The hon. member for Calgary Southwest.

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JUDICIAL APPOINTMENTS

Mrs. Barbara Sparrow (Calgary Southwest): Madam Speaker, last week three historical federal judicial appointments were announced, all of them women. The number of women in the federally appointed judiciary has increased steadily from 37 in 1984 to 100 in 1992.

On March 12 Canada named Madam Justice Catherine Anne Fraser as Chief Justice of Alberta and Chief Justice of the Court of Appeal for the Northwest Territories, a first for a woman.

Madam Justice Karen M. Weiler and Madam Justice Rosalie S. Abella both were appointed to the Ontario Court of Appeal. Madam Justice Abella is the 100th woman currently serving on the bench here in Canada. I offer my congratulations to all three.

Since this government has come into office, there has been an increase of 100 per cent in the appointment of women to agencies, to boards, to commissions, all in decision-making positions.

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COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS

Mr. Rod Murphy (Churchill): I would like to rise in defence of the community newspapers in this country.

As a result of the budget the government announced that it would be contributing some money toward making sure that newspapers did not have to pay the full postal increase in one year. Instead, the government announced that that increase would be over a two-year period. Many newspapers have drastically increased the rate they are charging people who have these newspapers mailed to them. Many newspapers are still threatened with extinction as a result of the government's policy.

Again I call upon the government to review the increases that are going to community newspapers to make sure they can afford to exist in the future and to make sure they can afford to get their information out to all Canadians.