

## EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

## CANADA-INDIA EXTRADITION TREATY

**Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops—Shuswap):** Mr. Speaker, a few days ago the Government of Canada signed an extradition treaty with India. The treaty has caused concern and to some extent fear in the Canadian Sikh community since Sikhs believe it may be used in an inappropriate way against members of their community. They wish to be informed how it will be applied in Canada. They wish to be assured that it will not be abused. They wish to obtain guarantees that information about individuals is verified as accurate.

The reason they are concerned is that they have sought, through the leadership of various Sikh organizations and religious leaders from many Gurdwars, to obtain a meeting with the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Clark) to discuss this and related issues. To date they have not been successful. While the Minister holds meetings with many cultural groups each month, for two and a half years he has refused to meet with representatives of the Sikh community. I urge the Minister to be more open about his dealings with India and agree to meet with representatives of the Sikh community immediately.

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[Translation]

## EMPLOYMENT

## YOUTH—REQUEST FOR MODERATE FUNDING INCREASE FOR CHALLENGE '87 PROGRAM

**Mr. Gilles Grondin (Saint-Maurice):** Mr. Speaker, the Minister of State (Youth) (Mr. Charest) simply did not consider the representations made to him by a number of student groups and non-profit organizations anxious to obtain Challenge '87 application forms before the end of 1986. The March 6, 1987 deadline has been announced too late and will certainly make it a lot harder for people who want to promote Challenge '87 or submit applications under this program.

In the case of non-profit organizations, planning is made more difficult because of the late deadline for project approval. As to students interested in participating in the program, again they will have to rush to find sponsors and obtain the required documents in time for the March 6 deadline. There can be only one reason—unacceptable to boot—to justify this situation: less money has been earmarked for Challenge '87 than was the case for Challenge '86, even though the Minister maintains that this year's program has been allotted the same budget as Challenge '86. Where are the \$30 million set aside for the 1986 census which made it possible to provide a few more summer jobs for young Canadians?

Since the Minister of State (Youth) has failed to produce the application forms at an earlier date, I would ask him to increase considerably the funds for the Challenge '87 program,

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if indeed the Minister has confidence in young people, and especially if he does appreciate their employment problems.

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## THE ECONOMY

## GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE

**Mr. Guy St. Julien (Abitibi):** Mr. Speaker, the latest economic indicators show that the economy of Quebec is sustaining its upward trend.

**Mr. Malépart:** Not like the Conservatives!

**Mr. St. Julien:** Since September 1984, 164,000 new jobs were created in Quebec compared with a total of 40,000 between the elections in 1980 and 1984. The unemployment rate dropped from 12.9 per cent in September 1984 to 10.8 per cent today. Total unemployment has dropped by 54,000.

Last year, housing starts reached their highest level in ten years. In 1986, housing starts increased 27 per cent compared with 1985 and 50 per cent compared with 1984.

The percentage of Quebec families living below the poverty line dropped from 16.8 per cent in 1984 to 15.8 per cent in 1985. In 1985, total sawmill production rose 12 per cent, compared with 1984. During the first nine months of 1986, production was 9.2 per cent higher than was recorded for the same period in 1985.

Mr. Speaker, the economy is in good shape, in Quebec and in Abitibi.

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● (1405)

[English]

## ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

## USE OF LEADED FUEL IN AUTOMOBILES—DANGERS TO HEALTH

**Mr. Joe Reid (St. Catharines):** Mr. Speaker, periodicals and press reports continue to emphasize that lead in the atmosphere, in our waters and in our foods, seriously affects the health of people, particularly our young people. It accumulates in the brain tissues, stunts growth, damages the nervous system, and produces high blood pressure and anemia. And yet we continue to allow one of the greatest lead polluters of all, the automobile, to continue to burn leaded fuel.

Canada allows the use of leaded fuel with an average lead content three times higher than that allowed in the United States and 20 times higher than that allowed in Europe. Let us stop dragging our feet. Hasten the conversion of leaded gas users to unleaded gas. Our health and that of our children is worth a lot more than an outdated automobile.