

*S. O. 21*

report is entitled "Evaluating the Fine Print—The Free Trade Agreement and Western Canada".

The foundation concludes that for workers 83 per cent will notice little change, 2 per cent are in industries that assistance programs should focus on, and 15 per cent or over half a million are in industries that will benefit. However, these half million people work in industries that now produce one-quarter of our Gross Domestic Product, so one can expect expansion and job creation in these dynamic Canadian industries.

The report also states that perhaps the biggest winners from the free trade agreement are consumers on both sides of the border. As part of its conclusion, the report said:

While there are individual winners and losers in the short run, none of us should neglect to place the free trade agreement in a nation building and international trade perspective. This agreement represents a landmark decision.

Such independent studies emphasize the critical importance of the free trade agreement to western Canada.

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**AWARDS AND DECORATIONS****FIRE SERVICES EXEMPLARY SERVICE MEDAL—INELIGIBILITY OF RETIRED FIRE-FIGHTERS**

**Mr. John Nunziata (York South—Weston):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to address the issue of the Fire Services Exemplary Service Medal. This medal is awarded by the Chancellery of Canadian Orders and Decorations to fire-fighters who have served 20 years or more. However, fire-fighters who were retired on or before August 29, 1985, are not eligible to receive this honour due to the fact that the medal did not exist before that day.

The Province of Ontario recognizes fire-fighters with long service regardless of when they retire. The same should apply to the federal Fire Services Exemplary Service Medal. This medal represents the sole compensation to fire-fighters for putting their lives on the line fighting fires for 20, 30 or 40 years.

These individuals, some of whom are Second World War veterans, have put forth a great contribution to our society throughout their many years of service. They have saved many lives. It is unjust that, simply because the medal did not exist before August of 1985, fire-fighters who were retired on or before that date should not be recognized for their great contribution.

Fire-fighters across Canada are concerned about this particular issue. I urge the Government of Canada to amend its policy in order to recognize fire-fighters who retired on or before August of 1985. This will allow these fire-fighters to wear this medal of honour proudly which they so rightly deserve.

**Mr. Speaker:** The Hon. Member's time has expired.

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**DAY CARE****WAGES OF EMPLOYEES**

**Ms. Margaret Mitchell (Vancouver East):** Mr. Speaker, the Government seems determined to ignore its obligation to address serious flaws in the way Canada cares for the children of working parents. The current system suffers from chronic lack of day care services which are exorbitantly expensive and exploits the dedicated child care providers, most of whom are women, by paying them disgracefully low wages.

Care giver wages, according to Statistics Canada, average \$8,900 per year. That is below the wages of housekeepers, waitresses, bartenders, and farm labourers. In fact child care is the worst paid job in the country.

If the Government values the work of women who care for children, if it cares about the quality of care our children receive, it will listen to the parents and workers who are concerned. If it does not care, it will follow the advice of an arrogant Minister of National Health and Welfare (Mr. Epp) who has turned his back on the child care community.

The Minister says that he is not impressed by noise and lobbyists. Why then did he prefer to participate in partisan provincial politics instead of accepting his invitation to participate in the recent national child care conference? He should resign.

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**EXTERNAL AFFAIRS****PLANNED VISIT TO CANADA BY POLISH PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATIONS**

**Mr. Andrew Witer (Parkdale—High Park):** Mr. Speaker, the Canadian Polish community is outraged over the planned visit to Canada next week of a Polish parliamentary delegation headed by Deputy Speaker Rakowski.

The Government of Poland continues to violate fundamental human rights by refusing to restore full legal status to the trade union Solidarity, outlawed in 1982, by refusing to rehire all workers who were dismissed under martial law, and by refusing to release all political prisoners.

I call upon the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Clark) to cancel the visit of the Polish delegation to Canada next week to demonstrate Canada's protest of the Polish regime's flagrant suppression and denial of workers' rights.