

## S. O. 31

What we are seeing today is another indication that the public infrastructure, so critical to this country, is on the auction block and that rural Canada is the Conservative Government's scapegoat for its economic failure.

Air Canada is for sale. VIA Rail is now for sale. Canada's postal service is for sale. Is there nothing that has been created for the public sector which is not for sale?

The Minister of Transport said that the routes to remote communities will be maintained, but it is pending a further examination of cost-effective measures, leaving the door open for even more cuts.

Rural Canada is being sold out. Selling off VIA Rail so the private investor can cater to the vanities of those who can afford luxury travel is an insult to rural Canadians. We will not accept it.

\* \* \*

## FISHERIES

**Mr. Peter L. McCreath (South Shore):** Mr. Speaker, last Monday I visited the vacant National Sea plant at Lockeport, Nova Scotia. It was, quite frankly, an eerie feeling walking through that modern, well-equipped but empty facility. The hard hats were on the hooks. The lights were still on the weigh scales. Everything was ready to go, except that there were no fish, so there were no plant workers.

Fifty five percent of the tax base of the town of Lockeport is that plant. Without the plant, quite simply, the town cannot function as a municipal unit.

I strongly urge the special cabinet committee now examining the fall-out for our Atlantic coast fishery to proceed with all dispatch and urgency in order that coastal communities like Lockeport and Port Mouton can receive the support and assistance that is now urgently required.

\* \* \*

[Translation]

## FREE TRADE

**Mr. Gilles Rocheleau (Hull—Aylmer):** Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister will recall that during the last

election campaign, barely a year ago, I fought to have his Government make a commitment to paying the cost of adjustment and retraining programs needed by business, before going ahead with free trade, because I thought such programs were important.

The Prime Minister will also recall his memorable visit to *Les Boiseries de l'Outaouais* factory where he put on a good electoral show, daring to call me a hypocrite because I insisted that his Government pay attention to adjustment and retraining programs. Today, the riding of Hull—Aylmer has been hit by the closure of *Les Boiseries de l'Outaouais*; 60 families are directly affected.

Will the Prime Minister, who mentioned *Les Boiseries de l'Outaouais* as a model for dealing with the challenge of free trade with the United States, say what he intends to do in future to stop the slew of plant shutdowns that we are now experiencing throughout the country? That is what I hope, Mr. Speaker.

\* \* \*

• (1410)

[English]

## THE ENVIRONMENT

**Mr. David Bjornson (Selkirk):** Mr. Speaker, recent attention has been focused on the horrible condition of the water quality of the Red River. Recent studies by various agencies have indicated that fecal bacteria levels are extremely high in the river.

The city of Winnipeg has been cited as the source of this pollutant, which negatively affects the water quality in my riding of Selkirk.

The river is of great historic significance to the area as it was the first settled waterway in western Canada, and has also been the source of a multimillion dollar sports fishing industry as well as tourism.

On behalf of my constituents, I am calling upon the mayor of Winnipeg and the provincial minister of the environment to move quickly to reach an agreement that would lead to the improvement of the quality of water in the Red River. Enough is enough.