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comment in the media, because the Conservative Government cannot make up its mind about its location. The same is true of the disease control laboratory, where the Government is hesitating between Ottawa and Winnipeg. As we all know, a new space agency will have to deal with various sectors that come under the federal Government and are located in the National Capital, the nerve centre where the decision-making takes place. The National Capital would also be a logical choice because a number of countries have decided to locate such agencies in their respective capital cities.

In any event, whether the Government favours the National Capital region or Montreal as the future location of the new space agency, a choice must be made. The Government will have to decide.

To remove any doubt about the location and to prevent further speculation that might jeopardize the project, the Conservative Government must act. It should table its Bill today and tell Canadians as soon as possible where the agency will be located.

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THE ECONOMY

IMPROVEMENT IN ABITIBI

Mr. Guy St. Julien (Abitibi): Mr. Speaker, together with his volunteers and the members of his PC association, the Conservative member for Mégantic—Compton—Stanstead (Mr. Gérin) has successfully completed his fund raising based on a new method, to wit, the refusal of all donations over \$1,000, the refusal of all donations from corporations, profit organizations and unions.

The crusade initiated by the Hon. Member for Mégantic—Compton—Stanstead is finally bearing fruit and, in agreement with Mr. Denis Lamarche, from Senneterre, the president of my party association in Abitibi, as well as other members of the executive, I fully support this method which we will use from now on in Abitibi.

Since 1984, together with my association and the economic players, I have had to deal with a number of projects and important issues which had not been settled under the previous government.

We are pursuing the economic recovery which is an accomplishment of our Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) and the Abitibi people. At 7.2 per cent, the unemployment rate in my riding is the lowest in Quebec, compared to 20 per cent in 1983-84. All together we are working towards a more prosperous Abitibi.

[English]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

CHILE—COPPER MINE PROJECT—CANADIAN LINE OF CREDIT

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops—Shuswap): Mr. Speaker, the Government of General Pinochet in Chile is completing work on a \$1.1 billion copper mine which will eventually process 300,000 tonnes a year. This mine of the Chilean Government will compete directly with Canadian copper mines, particularly those mines in the Highland Valley of British Columbia.

It is of particular concern to the miners and their families in this part of Canada that the Canadian Export Development Corporation has recently offered to extend to the Chilean Government a \$70 million line of credit to develop this particular mine. The British Columbia Mining Association has indicated that this will create an unfair competitive advantage for the Chilean mine which has an extremely high rate of copper ore and pays very low wages to miners.

These are tough times in the copper industry. The situation is extremely competitive. I think it is time that the Canadian Government started to support Canadian mines, Canadian miners, and Canadian mining communities as opposed to those of General Pinochet in Chile.

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AGRICULTURE

GRAIN EXPORTS—EFFECT OF ST. LAWRENCE SEAWAY STRIKE

Mr. Bill Gottselig (Moose Jaw): Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan grain farmers export over 80 per cent of their production each year. It is a long way from the primary prairie elevator to Thunder Bay and from Thunder Bay to export position at tidewater ports in Montreal or further east. The distance to our foreign customers is even greater. None of the competitors we fight with for a share of the international grain market have to transport their grain as far as we do.

We must export if Canadians are to continue to benefit from the earnings derived from grain sales abroad, even now during a period of devastatingly low grain prices.

With a one-week rail strike in August of this year, a strike/lock-out at Thunder Bay in September, 1986, and now a strike by marine engineers on ships which would ordinarily ply the waters of the Great Lakes from about the first week of April until the second week of December, the reliability of the eastern grain transportation system seems to be undermined by labour-management relations between those who are responsible for moving grain to market.

Canadians living in cities, towns, or rural areas all benefit from the jobs and income that the grain sector contributes to the economy every time we sell to foreign buyers. The longer