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SOCIAL POLICY FORUM

Mr. Andy Mitchell (Parry Sound—Muskoka, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, I rise in the House today to extend a note of thanks to close to 100 of my constituents who participated in my social policy forum held last week in my riding of Parry Sound—Muskoka.

The forum was held over a two day period. It brought together representatives from a wide range of social service providers and interested constituents alike. Eleven panel speakers provided diverse perspectives from organized labour, education, training, the business sector, municipal government, apprenticeship programs and family and children's services. This broad range of insight initiated group discussions to include all issues as brought forward in the discussion paper of the Minister of Human Resources Development.

I wish to extend a special note of thanks to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Human Resources Development for his active participation in my forum. His input was well received and provided a good foundation on which to base our two day discussions.

I will be providing the minister with the recommendations which came forward from my constituents to ensure that their point of view is heard.

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NATIONAL YOUTH ORCHESTRA

Mr. Tony Ianno (Trinity—Spadina, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, I would like to draw attention to the success story of the National Youth Orchestra of Canada. This unique non-profit organization which is internationally recognized for the quality of its orchestral training is located in my riding of Trinity—Spadina.

Since 1960 the National Youth Orchestra has served as a training ground for young Canadian musicians in the areas of performance and musicianship.

Young musicians use this experience as a launching pad to careers with Canadian symphonies. The orchestra is composed of young Canadians from diverse backgrounds and geography coming together with a common purpose and a willingness to learn. By performing concerts across Canada these young musicians not only gain essential career training but they also gain greater insight into what Canada is all about.

The National Youth Orchestra of Canada is a microcosmic snapshot of what this country is. I would like to take this opportunity to salute the members of this important institution which helps Canadians appreciate each other by bringing us closer together.

• (1405)

[Translation]

INTERNATIONAL TRADE

Mrs. Maud Debieu (Laval East, BQ): Mr. Speaker, after putting the axe to the "welfare state" the government is replacing it with the "entertainment state" as we can see from Team Canada's trip to Asia! Yet, taxpayers are served a lot of warmed-up dishes. For example, we witnessed yesterday with some surprise the "re-signing" of an agreement between Bombardier and Power Corporation to work in China, something which had already been signed in April.

I should also mention the contract for the subway in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, "announced" with fanfare last week when it had, in fact, been signed at the end of September. How can the government take credit for it when the cars were already under construction at the UTDC plant, in Ontario, long before Team Canada's trip? The government is hopping on the train while it is already moving!

Of course we are all pleased with the contracts signed in Asia by Canadian and Quebec companies but we denounce the fact that the government is trying to take credit for it, for purely partisan reasons. As Confucius would have said "Travellers from afar can brag with impunity".

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[English]

INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND AND WORLD BANK

Mr. Herb Grubel (Capilano—Howe Sound, Ref.): Mr. Speaker, a few weeks ago I attended the 50th anniversary meetings of the IMF and World Bank.

Those institutions have served the world well. However the merit of the IMF imposed discipline on borrowing governments is now seriously being questioned. The World Bank's mandate of lending to governments is obsolete.

The direct alleviation of poverty increasingly is the job of private charitable organizations. Private capital flows dwarf the resources of the two institutions and effectively guard against governmental mismanagement of the economy.

These institutions are very expensive. The recently retired Canadian director of the World Bank earned an effective annual salary in excess of \$350,000.

I urge the Government of Canada to take a tough stand on the future of these institutions at the next G-7 meeting in Halifax in March. A good case can be made that their job is done—