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appreciate the expertise of the PFRA and express their satisfaction with the job that PFRA has done. The patrons are therefore opposed to any transfer of irrigation projects to provincial management under the Saskatchewan Water Corporation.

The Palliser Triangle is a unique area of Canada, a low rainfall area beset by periodic drought, an area wherein water management and conservation are of critical importance. The farm families who utilize the irrigation system appreciate the competence and expertise built up by PFRA over the past six decades. They therefore reject any suggestion of transfer of their projects to the Saskatchewan Water Corporation. They are unanimous in requesting that the federal Government, through the PFRA, continue to operate and manage the District Three southwestern Saskatchewan irrigation projects.

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CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS

CLOSURE OF STEAM PLANT IN WINNIPEG

Mr. Bill Blaikie (Winnipeg—Birds Hill): Mr. Speaker, I have a statement to make which I hope will be brought to the attention of the Hon. Member for Provencher (Mr. Epp), who is the Government's pointman with respect to the redevelopment of the CNR east yards in Winnipeg. It has to do with the fact that the old CNR steam plant is being closed down and a new steam plant is being built under the auspices of VIA.

The concern is that the employees who now work at the CN steam plant are not being given an opportunity to transfer over to the new plant, to the VIA plant, in the way that many other CNR employees have been given such opportunities over the years, as various jobs have gone from CN to VIA Rail. I would call on the Hon. Member for Provencher to look into this and to see if some justice can be done, if these CNR employees can be treated in the same way as previous CNR employees have been treated when there has been a transfer of jobs to VIA.

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● (1415)

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

RIDEAU RIVER POLLUTION

Mr. Barry Turner (Ottawa—Carleton): Mr. Speaker, the Rideau River at Mooney's Bay is a polluted mess. When storm sewers run off into the river—and it is raining today here in Ottawa—the fecal coliform count in the river rises to unacceptable limits and the beach is closed. For all intents and purposes there is no industrial pollution going into the river; it is strictly from domestic animals.

On the weekend I visited the marina at Mooney's Bay with my three children. As we walked around the kids looked at me and said: "Dad, you aren't going to go into that water, are you?" I said: "No, I'm not". They said: "It looks rotten." The youngest, the five-year old, said: "It looks brutal". I told them that I was not going to go in it, but that many people do: boaters do, canoeists do, and water skiers do.

If you are ever out there water-skiing on Mooney's Bay, Mr. Speaker, and you fall in, you may become so polluted that you will have to go to hospital to be injected with something.

The river is a mess. It has to be cleaned up, with co-operation from the federal Government, municipal governments, and particularly the Ministry of the Environment in the Province of Ontario. I pledge myself to the people of Ottawa South to work closely to clean up the river so that we can all enjoy swimming in it.

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TRADE

CANADA-UNITED STATES FREE TRADE AGREEMENT—WATER RESOURCES

Hon. Chas. L. Caccia (Davenport): Mr. Speaker, last week, Mel Clark, a former GATT negotiator for Canada, and Don Gamble of the Rawson Academy of Aquatic Sciences, informed the committee studying the trade Bill that the proposed federal water Bill would not really stop water exports and diversions because all Acts of Parliament will be overridden by the trade legislation.

In addition, they pointed out that even an amendment to the trade Bill would not protect Canadian water from being exported and diverted to the United States. Clark and Gamble insist that the trade agreement itself must be amended if we want, with certainty, to exclude water from the trade Bill. We in the Liberal Party have also said so.

Evidently, since the trade deal as proposed will not stop water exports and diversions, it is clear that only Canadians will be able to stop the trade deal with their vote in the next election, and hopefully that will be soon.

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CHILD CARE

CRITICISM OF GOVERNMENT PLANS

Mr. Ernie Epp (Thunder Bay—Nipigon): Mr. Speaker, despite Conservative boasts, the child care crisis in our country continues to worsen. The Conservative Government claims to be working for accessible, quality child care, but it has not specified national objectives and standards in its plans. The