

I call upon the Government of Canada and the Department of Employment and Immigration as well as ACOA to introduce emergency funding for job creation programs to assist Canadian families in those regions in this their hour of economic need.

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[Translation]

LEADER OF THE BLOC QUÉBÉCOIS

Mr. Denis Pronovost (Saint-Maurice): Mr. Speaker, the leader of the Bloc Quebecois has just given us another example of his lack of financial responsibility.

The new spokesman for Jacques Parizeau in this House is now ready to choose the American dollar as the currency for his future independent Quebec. This is another evidence, Mr. Speaker, of the leader of the Bloc Quebecois' unrealistic approach in spite of his heated rhetoric.

One day, the Bloc Quebecois requests a common currency with Canada, the next, they want a separate currency, only to change their mind again the day after and talk about aligning the Quebec currency with the American dollar. With this death wish theory, they even consider abandoning at some point the American dollar and creating a new Quebec currency.

So much for consistency! How politically irresponsible! The people of Quebec will not entrust their future to such adventurers who seem only motivated by anger and passion.

[English]

AGRICULTURE

Mr. Jerry Pickard (Essex-Kent): Mr. Speaker, all across this country farmers want to prepare for spring planting. This should be a time of anticipation and hope. But this year it is marked by fear and anxiety; fear because farmers are uncertain of their future; anxiety because many are unsure of how they will finance their operations this year.

• (1410)

The past few years have been unkind to agriculture. Low commodity prices, natural disasters, floods and droughts have decreased earnings and depleted savings. Man-made disasters, such as the government's free trade deal, high interest rates and a high dollar have caused irreparable damage to Canadian agriculture. As

farmers attempt to plant the 1991 crops, this government sits idly by without giving immediate assistance.

In the past year, over 2,000 jobs have been lost and at least 12 plant closures or slowdowns have occurred. In Essex-Kent, two processors are gone and others are in danger of closing. Thousands of acres of fruits and vegetables are in jeopardy. Farmers' livelihoods are being lost.

I call upon this government to act now to save farming and the agrifood industry.

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IMMIGRATION

Mr. Stan Wilbee (Delta): Mr. Speaker, Asian gangs are becoming a serious problem in Canada. In Vancouver, Calgary, Toronto and Montreal we read of murders, gambling, extortion, drug trafficking, prostitution, immigrant smuggling and other serious and violent crimes, all connected to ruthless Asian gangs.

It is even more disturbing to read the reports that these gangs are actively recruiting more and more members, many of them school-aged youngsters.

I want to commend the police in these cities who are dealing with the gangs as best they can with the resources available. I also want to say that I appreciate their frustration with a system that is not screening out criminals and bogus refugees; a system that makes it difficult to deport immigrant gang members that are convicted of crimes in Canada.

I call on the government today to take a closer look at what we can do to strengthen our immigration laws and to prevent these violent and dangerous criminals from entering and staying in our country, and quickly deporting those convicted of serious criminal offences.

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INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Stan J. Hovdebo (Saskatoon-Humboldt): Mr. Speaker, the Mulroney government is again renegeing on its commitment to international development; its promise to the poorest of the poor.

Without any consultation, the government forced CIDA to cut millions of dollars of support from Canada's development NGOs. NGOs, including CUSO, Canada World Youth, Canadian Crossroads International, and others, are losing funds to a shadowy ODA reserve fund, yet another government slush fund.