

*Oral Questions**[English]***CHALLENGER FLEET**

Mr. Myron Thompson (Wild Rose): Mr. Speaker, I read in the newspaper yesterday that the government is considering selling most of its fleet of 16 Challenger jets. I certainly want to encourage the government to follow through on this positive impulse.

The article said that the Challenger fleet cost taxpayers \$54 million last year, and the selling of these jets is a move that would certainly be applauded by Canadian taxpayers.

I applaud the Prime Minister for this decision. I am very glad to see the government is prepared to respond positively to constructive public pressure and to constructive input from this side of the House.

Canadian taxpayers eagerly await the official announcement that the Challengers will be sold.

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TRADE

Mr. Wayne Easter (Malpeque): Mr. Speaker, I rise to raise concerns with respect to the free trade agreement with the United States. That is the continued use by the United States of its export enhancement program, specifically with respect to agricultural exports impacting on Canadian farmers and Canadian markets.

The U.S. is currently providing an export subsidy under the EEP of \$3 to \$40 per tonne into Mexico and of \$65 per tonne into China.

● (1415)

Article 701(4) of the CUSFTA states the United States is obligated to take into consideration the negative impact its export subsidies will have upon Canadian exporters of agricultural products into a third country.

The United States is failing now and has failed repeatedly to respect this provision. This is unacceptable.

It is time for the federal government to call for a formal binational dispute settlement panel to examine the issue and determine the extent of the injury caused to Canadian farmers and force the U.S. to cease the use of EEP.

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VYRT SISSON

Mrs. Jane Stewart (Brant): Mr. Speaker, everyone knows that a volunteer helps others, but Vyrst Sisson, a new retiree with an impressive record of service in the Brantford area has turned the tables and is helping volunteers.

Mr. Sisson has opened The Office at the YM-YWCA. This provides a place where retired or displaced business people have an office environment available to them to facilitate their work for volunteer organizations. So much more can be accomplished with the right equipment and atmosphere. Networking, co-operation, camaraderie; that is a great combination.

Leading by example has always been Mr. Sisson's style but this novel idea shows the impact one individual can have on a community.

I am bringing this to your attention because Mr. Sisson is a fine example of volunteerism in Brant.

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SHERRI MCLAUGHLIN

Mr. Nelson Riis (Kamloops): Mr. Speaker, in the early evening of September 13, 1993 a young woman, Miss Sherri McLaughlin, went missing in a Kamloops, British Columbia suburb. The only evidence of foul play was discovered within hours and included a bicycle which had been run over by a vehicle along with her abandoned backpack.

Since then in spite of a comprehensive and thorough investigation virtually no useful evidence has been uncovered regarding her whereabouts and what happened that fateful evening.

What happened that evening remains a mystery. She disappeared and the authorities are desperately seeking for new clues.

The people of Kamloops ask the people of Canada to join with them and assist them in any way to find out what happened to Sherri McLaughlin on that fateful evening. They ask the Government of Canada to take whatever steps necessary to make our communities safer.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD*[Translation]***LOWERING OF TAXES ON CIGARETTES**

Mr. Michel Gauthier (Roberval): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister.

On January 20 last, the Prime Minister said: "If both levels of government cannot co-operate, if one acts and the other does not, then we will not get the hoped-for results".

Fifteen days later, does the Prime Minister still agree with what he said and can he tell us whether he believes his plan to roll back cigarette taxes to combat smuggling could prove ineffective given that no other provincial government, aside from Quebec, has agreed to come on board?

Right Hon. Jean Chrétien (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, certain provincial governments have not yet reacted. They are studying the proposal which is being extended equally to all provinces.