

express in the strongest terms possible Canada's rejection of Noriega's hijacking of the will of the Panamanian people.

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## THE BUDGET

### IMPROVED EMPLOYMENT EQUITY FOR THE DISABLED

**Mr. Bruce Halliday (Oxford):** Mr. Speaker, you have shown a special interest in the problems which disabled persons face. You will be aware that the recent federal Budget introduced changes in the Income Tax Act which will improve employment equity for disabled persons. They will now be able to deduct the cost of care provided by a part-time attendant to a maximum of \$5,000. This initiative, at a revenue cost to the federal Government of \$5 million per year, is an important step toward creating equity in the workplace.

This measure is one from a package of tax considerations discussed with the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson) by the Canadian Paraplegic Association and the Coalition of Provincial Organizations of the Handicapped, demonstrating that this Government does consult, listen and respond to those deserving equitable treatment.

There remain many other obstacles to full participation of disabled persons in the labour force but I remain confident that this Government is prepared to act and eliminate these obstacles.

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[Translation]

## PULP AND PAPER INDUSTRY

### DIFFICULTIES OF ABITIBI-PRICE COMPANY

**Mr. Jean-Pierre Blackburn (Jonquière):** Mr. Speaker, while all Canadians are celebrating the National Forestry Week, the people of Jonquière, the constituency I have the honour to represent in this House, are having problems in a related field, namely with their pulp and paper industry.

Senior executives of Abitibi-Price Inc. met yesterday with the social and economic interest groups of the area and the 1,200 workers of their Kénogami plant.

Mr. Speaker, we don't often see top executives, like Mr. Davis and Mr. Beaudoin, schedule a meeting with

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the workers in order to tell them the plant is in trouble. Obviously, the situation is serious.

However, Mr. Speaker, I am sure the workers will be able to face the challenge and to turn their plant into a viable operation in just a few months. It's a huge challenge which the workers will take up with the support of the whole population.

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## NATIONAL FOREST WEEK

### DEVELOPMENT OF FOREST RESOURCES

**Mr. Réginald Bélair (Cochrane—Superior):** Mr. Speaker, this week we celebrate the Week of the Tree and of the Forests. The slogan "Your Forest and Your Future" illustrates very well the great interest Canadians have in this natural resource, upon which depend close to one million workers. The forest has a national impact, and this is a good opportunity for Canadians to think about its value in our lives.

The ideal thing would be to witness in the coming weeks the renewal of the six federal-provincial agreements on the development of forest resources. They are essential for the viability of the industry and they are in line with the objectives we set for ourselves: to preserve the environment, while at the same time ensuring regional and national economic viability.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, during this Week of the tree and of the Forests, the owners and workers of sawmills across Canada would have been delighted to hear that the 15 percent surtax on lumber exports would be eliminated.

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## EMPLOYMENT

### STUDENT HIRING CAMPAIGN

**Mr. Jean-Guy Guilbault (Drummond):** Mr. Speaker, on the occasion of the launching of the campaign to hire students, I would like to urge all the students of my riding looking for a summer job to apply as soon as possible to Canada Employment Centres for Students.

I call on all companies, businesses and private individuals in Drummond, to contribute to the success of the Canada Employment Centre for students by hiring quality manpower.