

80,000 direct jobs, the work will be socially and economically useful, the federal government contribution will be cost effective, and the broad consensus among federal, provincial and municipal levels of government favours this proposal.

Indeed, it is hard to find any reason for opposing this proposal except the Government's fear of further budgetary deficits. We can only hope that the Government will finally see the merit in a proposal that the federal New Democratic Party has already endorsed, and will act to make our cities more modern, more safe, and better places for many Canadians to live.

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TRADE

CANADA-UNITED STATES FREE TRADE AGREEMENT— CONGRATULATIONS FROM EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY

Mr. Ron Stewart (Simcoe South): Mr. Speaker, I have just returned from the sixteenth annual meeting of the European Parliament. The European Economic Community is the world's largest market with over 320 million consumers, with a Gross Domestic Product larger than that in the United States.

The 12 member countries differ in language and culture yet their success story in rebuilding Europe, even to a grain surplus, through free trade is legend. They now contemplate removing all customs posts at their borders.

When I spoke about our free trade agreement with the United States, they who are our second largest trading partner acknowledged and lauded our success.

When I told them of the opposition to the free trade agreement from across the House, for reasons such as the loss of sovereignty, they scoffed and asked: "Have any of us sold out our nations? Have any of us lost sovereignty?"

The Germans, the Italians, the Irish, the Greeks? Of course not! They have created a booming market and better jobs through free trade, which is exactly what will happen here.

Hans-Jurgen Zahorka, one of the most respected Members of the European Parliament, congratulated us as a Government for what we accomplished in our free trade agreement with the United States. He told me that many doctoral papers have been written in Germany confirming our good fortune.

Free trade means continued good fortune, better jobs, and a great future for our children. Let's get on with it.

[Translation]

MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS

DETERIORATION OF INFRASTRUCTURES—DEMAND FOR FEDERAL AID

Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa—Vanier): Mr. Speaker, the mayors of Canada's major cities are now in Halifax for the annual meeting of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities.

They have launched a call for help to the federal Government, faced with disintegrating municipal infrastructures. It would take \$15 billion immediately to upgrade these infrastructures. Faced with this colossal expenditure, the mayors are asking Ottawa to help them.

The Mulroney Government is turning a deaf ear, but this program would create 60,000 jobs. I repeat: 60,000 jobs. We in the Official Opposition will not let the municipalities down. Not long ago, I presented a motion in the House, supporting the municipalities and their call for renewal of their infrastructures, and I got the support of all the provinces. Now the mayors want our support, and the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Turner) has already promised a three-way shared cost program to create these jobs in this country.

I say to the Conservative Government: Canada needs a municipal infrastructures program. We need it now! Submarines, nuclear or otherwise, are not a priority!

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● (1410)

[English]

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

PROTECTION OF OZONE LAYER

Mr. John Ostrom (Willowdale): Mr. Speaker, the earth's ozone layer is under attack by man-made chemicals and by man physically destroying the environment. In the past weeks there has been some positive news. Brazilian researchers have found that the burning of an area of the Amazon Rain Forest as large as southern Ontario, each year, will have a disastrous effect on life by weakening the ozone layer. Brazil has recognized the importance of the Amazon to the world, and it is hoped that action will be taken.

Canada has decided to ban all non-essential uses of chemicals that destroy the ozone. The Minister is to be congratulated for his tough action, which goes beyond the 50 per cent agreed to by the countries which met in Montreal last September. As more nations become aware of the impending disaster, I am confident that they will follow Canada's lead in taking measures to halt the destruction of the ozone layer.