

S. O. 31

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

RAILWAY TRANSPORT—NOISE POLLUTION

Mr. Jean-Guy Hudon (Parliamentary Secretary to Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to be making my first statement to the House after my re-election. First of all, I want to thank the residents of Beauharnois-Salaberry for entrusting me with a second mandate. Let me assure them that I will work hard to prove myself worthy of their trust.

I also want to thank the City of Ottawa for finally repairing the Queensway. It's the first time since 1984.

Mr. Speaker, free trade was obviously a very popular topic of discussion in my riding and the central theme of the election campaign. However, very little was said about the environment. When we talk about the environment, Mr. Speaker, we talk only about water and the air and about the threat posed by different pollutants. One subject, however, that is very important to us is rail transportation. Of course, railroads were once on the cutting edge of economic development in Canada. Today, however, we would like to see railroads rerouted around the cities and town which they helped found. In the Armand-Frappier neighbourhood of Valleyfield and along Saint-Charles Street in Huntingdon, there are many instances where the large rail companies, especially Conrail and Canadian National, make a great deal of noise and are active in the middle of the night. This situation adversely affects the quality of life of the area's residents. I simply want to assure them that I am actively working on this problem and will take steps to ensure that these companies respect the environment.

* * *

• (1110)

[English]

CANADA-UNITED STATES FREE TRADE
AGREEMENTDE GRANDPRÉ COMMISSION—ABSENCE OF INTERIM
REPORT

Mr. Ron Fisher (Saskatoon—Dundurn): Mr. Speaker, during the election campaign the New Democrats and scores of other Canadians all across the country who analyzed the trade deal pointed out that hundreds of thousands of Canadians would lose their jobs as a result of the trade deal. During the campaign and even

more vigorously since the election, and as recently as the day before yesterday in the House of Commons, the Government pointed out that Canadians had nothing to fear in relation to jobs because of the free trade deal.

At the same time it was pointing this out, the Government was discussing the de Grandpré Commission which was going to be making a report. As recently as the day before yesterday it stated that there would be an interim report of that committee tomorrow.

Jay Alam of the committee has confirmed that there never was any intention to have an interim report by that commission. This confirms what we have been saying all along, during the election campaign and as recently as this morning, that the Government does not have the interests of Canada at heart. Just pointing out the concerns of the trade deal—

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Member has exceeded the time.

* * *

PROVINCIAL AFFAIRS

SASKATCHEWAN—BY-ELECTION WON BY PROGRESSIVE
CONSERVATIVE CANDIDATE

Mr. Geoff Wilson (Swift Current—Maple Creek—Assiniboia): Mr. Speaker, we all know that by-elections traditionally go against the Party in power. This was not the case yesterday in the Saskatchewan provincial riding of Assiniboia—Gravelbourg where, for the first time ever, a P.C. Member was elected in the person of Jack Wolfe.

Because this by-election came at mid-term it was seen by the entire province as a crucial test, and all Parties put everything they had into the campaign.

The voters said yes to the P.C. Government and the able leadership of Grant Devine. They said: "We like your policies in support of the family, free trade, economic diversification and agriculture".

The voters said no to Roy Romanow and the policies of fear. They said: "We do not like the negative health scare, medi-scure, gloom and doom tactics of the NDP".

The electors of Assiniboia—Gravelbourg decided in favour of a positive commonsense P.C. Government, a Government that believes in the future of Saskatchewan and its young people.