from the Province of Ontario saw fit to raise this particular point in the House of Commons and say that he certainly did not want people on the East Coast to share in the revenues of Canada to the extent of having parity.

I am sure that westerners will agree with me that wage parity is an essential element of our parliamentary situation. We pay ourselves on an equal basis. We pay the Armed Forces on an equal basis. If we are going to pay public servants on a different basis, then we better have a very good reason for it. I would like the Minister of State for the Treasury Board to tell me very exactly what that reason is.

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EMPLOYMENT

CALL FOR OLDER WORKERS PROGRAM

Ms. Marion Dewar (Hamilton Mountain): Mr. Speaker, for two and a half years the Government has announced that it would have a program for older workers, and it still has not delivered. I am very concerned that there are many resourceful people in our community who cannot find work because this program will not be implemented.

The Hamilton Help Centre went around the program and found one that the Government could deliver. For two years it has been operating with an 86 per cent success rate. Now the Government is about to cancel that and not give it any other options. This is a disgrace for older workers.

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TRADE

CANADA-UNITED STATES FREE TRADE AGREEMENT—POSITION OF LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Mr. William C. Winegard (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister for International Trade): Mr. Speaker, last weekend on a national television show the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Turner) spoke about the free trade agreement with the United States.

Unfortunately, rather than shedding light on the agreement he perpetuated many of the myths. For example, he insists that we cannot continue our policy of helping the various regions of Canada. We know that is simply not true. There is nothing in the agreement with respect to regional development. Nothing has changed and nothing will be changed in 1990 over what it is in 1988. The people of the West know that, the people of Québec know that, and the people of the East know that.

Mr. Speaker, is it not time that we began to look at the specifics of the agreement rather than perpetuate the myths? We owe the people of Canada that.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[*Translation*]

NATIONAL DEFENCE

SALE OF MOISIE BASE—MUNICIPAL EVALUATION—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Hon. Jean Lapierre (Shefford): Mr. Speaker, further to our discussions last Friday, my question is directed to the Minister of Public Works.

Saturday, the Minister issued a press release in which he confirmed that the sole assessment made of the property in question amounted to $28,000 and that the property was being sold for $187,500.

Mr. Speaker, on Saturday the Minister informed us that according to him this property, which includes 93 houses, a community. centre, an Economat store, an electric power station and 733 acres of land on one of the ten best salmon rivers of the world, was worth $28,000.

Mr. Speaker, the Minister went even further. This year, he went so far as to send an initial payment of $50,000 to the Town of Moisie, in lieu of taxes, and the town says the total tax bill will be $113,454.51 for a municipal assessment of $6.2 million.

My question to the Minister is this: How can he send a cheque for $53,000 as an advance payment in lieu of taxes on a property whose value he assesses at $28,000? How can a ratepayer pay more in taxes than his property is worth? How is that for incompetence! Could the Minister explain this discrepancy to the House?

[*English*]

Hon. Stewart McInnes (Minister of Public Works): Mr. Speaker, I confirm the information in my statement released during the weekend that there is only one appraisal outstanding for this property by a competent appraiser. It states that the value is $28,000.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. McInnes: In response to the tender call, 19 firms submitted a quotation of the value of the property; 17 of those were under $12,000, one was $50,000, and the other was $100,000. I suggest that that is the best indication of the value of that property.

[*Translation*]

LETTER SENT TO MINISTER—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Hon. Jean Lapierre (Shefford): Mr. Speaker, I want to direct another question to the Minister. As we know, his valuation is not reliable, because even the Prime Minister's friend says the asking price is $30,000 for one house only. Therefore, I feel the Hon. Minister should check his figures and see what is going on in Moisie, because that property is