

will cause a further deterioration of women's standards of living.

This is the heart of the B.C. Government's economic strategy. It is in conflict with the free trade policy of the federal Government. There does not seem to have been any consultation. I think the federal Government should reject this idea, and it should say so now.

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ENERGY

DIESEL RETAIL PRICE IN PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

Mr. Pat Binns (Cardigan): Mr. Speaker, oil companies are charging Canadians too much for diesel fuel. Before current prices fell, diesel sold for three cents to four cents per litre less than gasoline. Now prices are three cents to four cents more than gasoline in most of Canada.

There is an even more outrageous situation in Prince Edward Island. Consumers are paying 55 cents per litre for diesel at retail pumps while our neighbours in New Brunswick are only paying 36 cents per litre.

Oil companies have no reasonable explanation for this 19-cent per litre or 85-cent per gallon spread. Prince Edward Islanders and Canadians are being gouged. I call for the support of this House to pressure oil companies to drop diesel prices.

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INVESTMENT CANADA

INCREASE IN FOREIGN INVESTMENT

Mr. Bill Tupper (Nepean—Carleton): Mr. Speaker, our country is presently benefiting from a sharp influx of capital from foreign investors. Recent figures show that \$4.7 billion entered Canada in the first six months of this year. This is compared to the \$5.5 billion invested in the whole of 1985, and the \$2.6 billion invested in 1984. This is an unprecedented increase in just two years. A lasting change in attitude on the part of our Government is a major reason for this, together with the replacement of FIRA by Investment Canada.

Investment Canada has a mandate to encourage foreign investment and has done just that. It has reported an increase of 25 per cent in the number of applications by foreign investors in the agency's first year of operation.

Canada is fast developing a reputation for being a safe and attractive country for foreign investment with dramatic growth potential for the future. This is another dramatic example of what good Government can do.

S.O. 21

PUBLIC SERVICE

EMPLOYMENT OF DALTON CAMP

Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry—Prescott—Russell): Mr. Speaker, Charlie McCarthy is alive and well and lives in Ottawa. The Government will spare no money to try to offer the best show in town.

We now have a ventriloquist and dummy act to be featured on a daily basis, with matinees on weekends. The new dummy act featuring ventriloquist Dalton Camp and Canada's favourite dummy will be performing for the Canadian people from now on. Of course, tickets are free for all Canadians who have already paid for the contract of these artists. Unfortunately, this act is coming soon to your home. Check your local listings for time and date. I am sure you will enjoy the dummy's empty rhetoric and his acute psychological need to embellish the truth.

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REGIONAL INDUSTRIAL EXPANSION

AWARDING OF GRANT IN SASKATCHEWAN

Mr. Vic Althouse (Humboldt—Lake Centre): Mr. Speaker, an April 23 announcement of a federal grant of more than \$40,000 to Sherwin Peterson, a Saskatchewan MLA and also legislative assistant to the Premier of Saskatchewan, prompted inquiries from some of my constituents about the method used for awarding these grants as they apply to fertilizer blending operations. I wrote about this matter to the then Acting Minister of DRIE who is now the Deputy Prime Minister (Mr. Mazankowski). He passed it on in July to the new Minister. I was told by the new Minister that answers to my questions on this matter would be forthcoming some three months ago. We have waited four and a half months, Mr. Speaker, and I am still wondering.

● (1115)

Can the Government assure me specifically that this grant had nothing to do with Mr. Peterson's position as a legislative assistant to the Premier or as a Member of the Legislature? If not, why was his application the only one, of more than a dozen such applications, to get approval?

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[Translation]

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

DIVERSE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC INITIATIVES PROPOSED BY GOVERNMENT

Mr. Gabriel Desjardins (Témiscamingue): Mr. Speaker, my constituents and Canadians in general will welcome the