

and longer than all of the other industrialized countries that report compares them with.

That is also in the report but conveniently the Minister of Finance and the Prime Minister have chosen to ignore the full contents of the report, which is that Canada's growth is expected to be higher precisely because its recession was that much deeper than all of the other countries in the industrialized world.

That is one of the reasons we are calling for an election, because Canadians cannot stand to be further put through the kinds of economic policies which have led this country to this dismal economic state.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois):** It being two o'clock p.m. the House will now proceed to Statements by Members pursuant to Standing Order 31.

---

## STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S. O. 31

[English]

### CANADA ELECTIONS ACT

**Mr. Ross Belsher (Fraser Valley East):** Mr. Speaker, the Canada Elections Act prohibits inmates serving sentences in federal penitentiaries and in provincial jails from voting. This is as it should be.

I was very disturbed when the Federal Court of Appeal and the Ontario Court of Appeal said that this restriction was unconstitutional. I am glad to see the Department of Justice is seeking to appeal these decisions to the Supreme Court of Canada.

I agree with the federal lawyers that taking the vote away from prisoners is justified in a free and democratic society. By breaking the law, individuals have broken the social contract they have with society. It is only appropriate that they surrender their privileges within society during their incarceration.

The vote should not be extended to prisoners.

\* \* \*

### ALGOMA STEEL CORPORATION

**Mr. Maurice Foster (Algoma):** Mr. Speaker, during the Easter adjournment an important agreement was reached concerning the reorganization and restructuring of Algoma Steel Corporation in Sault Ste. Marie.

### S. O. 31

Only a year ago the company faced bankruptcy, thousands of workers faced the loss of their jobs, and the city faced the loss of its principal industry and employer.

The agreement comes with considerable costs in terms of jobs and wages for the workers and heavy losses as well for investors and shareholders. However, compared to the situation facing the steelworkers and the community only a year ago this agreement is infinitely better.

Employee ownership provides an incentive to ensure the company is competitive and viable in the years ahead.

The community of Sault Ste. Marie has rallied behind the steelworkers and the company by establishing the Community Action Team to support their negotiations, securing over 20,000 members and making strong representation last fall to both levels of government.

The real challenge begins now for workers and management alike to make the restructured new Algoma Steel a viable and dynamic steelmaker, able to compete in the markets of the world.

We congratulate all those involved in this agreement and wish them well in the years ahead.

\* \* \*

### GUN CONTROL

**Mr. Peter L. McCreath (South Shore):** Mr. Speaker, proposed gun control regulations are now before this House. This new act and these new regulations have been developed and brought forward primarily because of public and media pressure from gun control lobbies including women's advocacy groups who, it would seem, have chosen to make this a feminist issue. So be it.

Most reasonable gun owners, gun clubs, hunters and fishermen do not object to most of the new measures. They certainly support any measures that will contribute to safety.

Yet, why is it that the full cost of these measures is to be borne not by those who have demanded them but by those who have not?

On behalf of many hundreds of responsible gun owners on the south shore of Nova Scotia I vigorously object to and oppose the 400 per cent increase in the cost of a firearms acquisition certificate. If these measures are in the public interest then the public should bear the cost of them.