

Linking human rights to aid is laudatory, but only if those already oppressed are not further victimized. It cannot be used as an excuse to cut back on Canada's total aid budget nor cynically to target those developing countries for linked cutbacks that do not bring immediate economic benefits through trade to Canada.

When determining aid policies particular regard must be given to recipient government budgets and policies, their military versus social expenditures, women and child support initiatives, and environment and population problems. The economics of globalization must not continue to dominate our development efforts. Aid must not be conditional to a debt ridden country accepting punitive structural adjustment measures. The emphasis must be put on more substantive debt relief to the world's poorest countries, particularly those in Africa, and on direct poverty alleviation through health and education programs.

Canada's and global security depend on our continuing commitment to the poor of the world. International Development Week can be an important opportunity to strengthen Canadian resolve to that end.

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[Translation]

HOME OWNERSHIP

Mr. Jean-Guy Guilbault (Drummond): Mr. Speaker, \$5,000 is now enough to buy a \$100,000 house.

The federal government, through the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, is doing its part to help individuals own a home.

The Loan Insurance Program for new home owners will reduce the minimum down payment required for buyers of a first house, whether new or previously built, from 10 per cent to 5 per cent for mortgage loans insured by the Canadian government.

This initiative, which takes effect immediately, will boost the construction industry in Canada for the next two years and give about 200,000 Canadian households which now rent their accommodation the chance to own their home.

Together with lower interest rates and the present state of the real estate market, this program should

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stimulate the economy and increase the chances of home ownership for many Canadians.

[English]

SMALL BUSINESS

Mr. Larry Schneider (Regina—Wascana): Mr. Speaker, small business is under considerable strain today for a variety of reasons, one of which I strongly believe is the paper burden we place upon it. Small businesses in my constituency continue to press me to get our government to attack this problem.

I am well aware of the commendable efforts being undertaken by my colleague, the hon. Minister of State for Small Businesses and Tourism. We must not only support his initiatives but assist his efforts by providing feedback to his department from all constituents.

I urge all members of this House to participate in this effort, not to only facilitate productivity and growth in our small business sector but to reduce our costs as well.

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CANADA—UNITED STATES FREE TRADE AGREEMENT

Ms. Joy Langan (Mission—Coquitlam): Mr. Speaker, prior to the free trade agreement coming into effect in January 1989, Employment Canada had a unit that was responsible for collecting information. Regional offices would phone in daily any closures occurring. This unit was cut due to government cutbacks just prior to the free trade agreement.

Once the free trade agreement was in place, demand for information increased and the government produced a report every two weeks.

In trying to track down this list recently I found that there is only one being compiled. In fact Labour Canada uses this list for its purposes. For example, earlier this month Labour Canada requested a list of closures in Quebec and a handwritten list was supplied.

I think my question is one that we all must ponder. Is the government trying to hide how many permanent lay-offs and lost jobs there have been due to the free trade agreement? If it is not, it has a responsibility to make sure not just parliamentarians but all Canadians know what permanent lay-offs have taken place.