

DEREGULATION

Mr. Bill Blaikie (Winnipeg Transcona): Mr. Speaker, a few days ago the Tory Minister of Transport in Manitoba declared that deregulation had made a mess of Canada's airline industry. After years of supporting deregulation he finally made the connection. Not that this new-found awareness stopped one of his colleagues from announcing deregulation in the phone industry on the same day. We would not want to make too many connections in one day.

The most important connection Canadians need to make when it comes to deregulation is the historical connection between deregulation and the Liberal Party of Canada.

Deregulation started under the Liberals, under the then Minister of Transport, now the member for Winnipeg South Centre. Indeed I refer Canadians to *Hansard* for April 6, 1984 where they can find an argument between the then Minister of Transport and the current Minister of Finance about who got on whose deregulation band wagon first, both claiming the honour of being the champion of deregulation.

Before the transport committee on April 10, 1984, the member for Winnipeg South Centre defended himself by saying that he had 400 letters calling for U.S. style deregulation. I bet he had as many calling on him not to deregulate, but he chose deregulation and now we have the chaos and the airline bankruptcies that he said would never happen.

Like free trade, privatization and a host of other destructive policies, deregulation can be traced to a time when the corporate agenda was being implemented by the Liberals. The only escape from that agenda is through the NDP.

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YOUNG OFFENDERS ACT

Mr. Brian O'Kurley (Elk Island): Mr. Speaker, in the riding of Elk Island as in many other parts of our country, Canadians have expressed concern about criminal activity by young people. The constituents are angry and frustrated that the Young Offenders Act is not working.

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Constituents in my riding want Parliament to toughen up the Young Offenders Act and more preferably replace it with a law that makes young criminals accountable for their actions.

Robert Romanchuk, an insurance man in Bruderheim writes:

The Young Offenders Act is a joke. In one case a young offender stole a vehicle and scratched in the hood: Young Offenders Act, ha, ha.

Rick and Laura Rumohr of Fort Saskatchewan write:

We live in fear and this is wrong. People who commit crimes must be punished and there must be stricter penalties.

Doug and Marie Bodeux of Beaumont suggest work camps. James Brandick of Sherwood wants the names of young offenders made public. Many people suggest that parents should be made accountable for the crimes of their children.

Let us work together to strengthen or replace the Young Offenders Act. Let us all work together for safer communities and a better Canada.

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CORNWALL, ONTARIO

Mr. Bob Kilger (Stormont—Dundas): Mr. Speaker, on November 6 the Courtaulds fibres plant in Cornwall announced that it will be closing at the end of this month. The closure will eliminate 360 jobs.

Since June 1989, 20 manufacturing plants have ceased operation in Cornwall. Over 2,500 jobs have been lost and the city's unemployment rate is over 20 per cent. More than half of the eligible UI recipients in Cornwall have exhausted their benefits. The city ranks third in Ontario in terms of percentage of population on general welfare. Thirty-seven per cent of the population, 17,638 men, women and children rely on social assistance.

For two years I have called upon the government to bring forward an economic development program for eastern Ontario. Yet, while the recession continues to take its toll and unemployment climbs, the government has done nothing to stimulate the local economy.

The time has come for this government to act and assist the people of Cornwall and eastern Ontario by immediately implementing an economic development program.