

*S. O. 31*[*Translation*]**REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

**Mr. Gilbert Chartrand (Verdun—Saint-Paul):** Mr. Speaker, the federal government has admitted that certain groups of the labour force in the urban area of Montreal have major economic problems. The south west sector of Montreal Island is represented by a committee of volunteers who have joined forces to invite all three levels of government—municipal, provincial and federal—to form a partnership and co-ordinate the implementation of their various economic programs.

In this connection, the Minister of State for Employment, the Hon. Monique Vézina, and the Minister of Labour, the Hon. Jean Corbeil, announced on April 9 that \$1.2 million had been set aside for the current year as financial support for the harmonization committee of the City of Montreal and the economic and community development corporations (CDEC).

The partnership concept promoted by the forum on employment was reflected Employment and Immigration's participation in the Montreal action plan for neighbourhood economic development.

Thanks to this concept, the development committee will be able to adjust our employment and training programs to the specific and pressing needs of the community.

Mr. Speaker, Bill C-21 provides for a similar, dynamic use of unemployment insurance funds. Bill C-21 would let us do more to meet labour force needs. The recent announcement by the Minister of State for Employment reflects our desire and our ability to help workers overcome their difficulties by ensuring that they will be able to obtain worthwhile and permanent employment.

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[*English*]**LAW OF THE SEA**

**Hon. Chas. L. Caccia (Davenport):** Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister likes to speak of the need for international co-operation to solve global problems. If he wishes to be taken seriously he should see to it that the Law of the Sea is ratified to honour Canada's commit-

ment in 1982. Because of the Prime Minister's lack of leadership, Canada has not done so.

The Law of the Sea, intended to serve humanity in managing the oceans, is unenforceable because an insufficient number of nations have ratified it.

When will the Prime Minister cross the bridge between rhetoric and action? If he is to be taken seriously on environmental issues, Canada should ratify the Law of the Sea, but the political will, alas, seems to be missing.

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**TRADE**

**Mr. Chris Axworthy (Saskatoon—Clark's Crossing):** Mr. Speaker, yesterday we were reminded of just how effective the free trade agreement has been for Canada. It was another victory for the United States, this time on the issue of lobster exports.

Atlantic Canadians have heard repeatedly that the Conservative government intends to defend the interests of our lobster fishermen. The Minister for International Trade described U.S. action against Canadian lobsters as trade protectionism at its rankest. The Prime Minister told the House that the full weight and influence of the Canadian government would be brought to bear on the U.S. Congress and administration in an attempt to settle this very serious problem, in the interests of our fishermen.

The consequences of the U.S. action are estimated to cost the Canadian lobster industry up to \$127 million over the next three years.

It appears that the Department of Fisheries and Oceans has already given in, indicating in a briefing book that discussions are now under way with industry on how best to implement the changes made necessary by this American government action. The final decision will not be made until May 15, yet the federal Department of Fisheries has conceded defeat already.

Whose side is the government really on?

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**VOLUNTEERS**

**Mr. Ross Belsher (Fraser Valley East):** Mr. Speaker, last Saturday I had the pleasure of attending the ninth annual Volunteer Recognition Banquet. In attendance were some 200 people, representing over 4,000 volun-