

worth \$130 million. With this region's unemployment rate at 13 per cent, every dollar and every job is needed.

B.C. fruit growers and those in other provinces are lobbying the government to establish a national apple marketing board. A marketing board would stabilize the industry by controlling prices and quality, and by halting the apple imports pouring into Canada because of world-wide over-production.

I urge the government to act now on the establishment of a national apple marketing board by speeding up the process needed to put this board into effect. The survival of a major industry and a way of life are at stake.

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[Translation]

DEMOCRACY IN HAITI

Hon. André Ouellet (Papineau—Saint-Michel): Mr. Speaker, this week, representatives of *Carrefour Tiers-Monde* came to Ottawa to meet members of the Standing Committee of the House of Commons on External Affairs and International Trade and explain to us the urgency of giving substantial support to the democratic process in Haiti.

The Conservative government must respond positively to this request which is unanimously supported by such important organizations as the *Association québécoise des organismes de coopération internationale*, Development and Peace, Canada World Youth, the Haitian Christian community office of Montreal and the group to promote respect for the Haitian Constitution.

I must say that the emergency assistance sought for Haiti includes medical, food, security and immigration components. One of the greatest concerns for those who are interested in the situation in Haiti is to have a country like Canada that could act now to help the authorities there prepare for democratic elections which could be held in early 1991.

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[English]

THE ENVIRONMENT

Mr. J.W. Bud Bird (Fredericton—York—Sunbury): Mr. Speaker, I want to compliment the Minister of the Environment for his renewed commitment to the envi-

ronmental imperative for Canada, announced yesterday as *The Green Plan: A National Challenge*.

In particular, I want to commend the minister for the process of specific and intensive national consultation which he has introduced as a prelude to final publication of The Green Plan. In so doing he recognizes that the first step toward sustainable development must be a clear and informed consensus about where we want to go. The real challenge is to develop the national consensus as well as we possibly can.

The minister states clearly that environmental considerations, as with economic ones, must be forethoughts to decision making, not post mortems as has so often been the case. In the debate which he is now initiating, Canadians will have the responsibility and the opportunity to reflect upon the difficult balance which we must find between mutually compelling goals for economic development and environmental sustenance. The Green Plan will show the way, but first all Canadians must help to find the destination.

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MINISTER OF FINANCE

Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry—Prescott—Russell): Mr. Speaker, I know it is unfair to quote the Minister of Finance using his own words but let me do it anyway. On May 1, 1984 the Minister of Finance said, who was then the opposition member for Etobicoke Centre, said the following:

—the only response the minister has made to that is to increase interest rates. That in itself led to further weakness in the already weakening economy over the past six months.

On March 13, 1984, the member for Etobicoke Centre said:

It does not make any sense at all for us to have this situation in Canada where interest rates are allowed to rise. Is the minister telling us there is no alternative, that the government has no flexibility and no other options but simply to follow the policy of the United States lock-step, and watch our economy fall into the doldrums again?

The member for Etobicoke Centre said on December 13, 1982:

The inflation rate in the marketplace, the non-government control part of the economy, is between 5 per cent and 6 per cent. The current interest rate at 13 per cent or 14 per cent is simply too high.