

I want to recognize the formation of the Saint John River Society which will celebrate the existence of this wonderful resource and foster appreciation of its history and its potential.

The inauguration of this society will be marked on June 24, 389 years after the naming of the river by Samuel de Champlain and Sieur Demonts.

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### THE ECONOMY

**Mr. Girve Fretz (Erie):** Madam Speaker, I would like to read the following headlines: "Factory output climbs—Canada leads industrial nations", "Canada bucks global economic trend", "Canadian economic growth hits two-year high", and "Canada poised to top G-7 growth".

It is no coincidence that the nine years preceding these newspaper headlines contained the tough choices and the real commitment to long-term economic prosperity which today are so popularly criticized.

What evidence exists to persuade Canadians that our economic strategy is on the right track? As we proceed from a cyclical economic downturn which is global in scope, growth in Canada's manufacturing output is stronger than that of any other major industrialized nation. At 4 per cent Canada's GDP growth has been steadily rising since January 1991, and in the first quarter of 1993 it was four times higher than that in the United States.

With the prediction that the Canadian economy will grow faster than that of any other major industrialized nation the OECD said yesterday that recovery in Canada—

**Madam Deputy Speaker:** I regret the member's time has expired.

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• (1415)

### STUDENT EMPLOYMENT

**Mr. Mac Harb (Ottawa Centre):** Madam Speaker, it is graduation time again. Across Canada thousands and thousands of students will graduate this year.

Many of those students will graduate with a debt load of approximately \$15,000 to \$20,000. The job market that existed 30 or 40 years ago is no longer there. Graduating from high school or university is no longer the happy occasion it used to be for family members, including the grandparents.

### Oral Questions

Take for instance what this government has done over the past few years. Last year it increased by \$3 million the funds for the Summer Employment and Experience Development program. That was a drop in the bucket for a student unemployment rate at 18 per cent and more.

This year the government has only added \$5 million which leaves the funding for the program at approximately \$88 million. That is away below the 1985 figures.

**Madam Deputy Speaker:** I am sorry, the hon. member's time has expired.

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### ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

#### NORTH AMERICAN FREE TRADE AGREEMENT

**Hon. Roy MacLaren (Etobicoke North):** Madam Speaker, the United States administration has stated that NAFTA will not be implemented without environmental and labour side agreements enforced by trade sanctions.

However yesterday after his meeting with President Clinton, the Prime Minister stated that trade sanctions are "totally unacceptable to Canada". The logic of this position is that Canada will either have to accept U.S. demands or refuse to proclaim NAFTA.

My question for the Prime Minister is this. Is the government prepared to walk away from NAFTA over the trade sanctions issue? Yes or no?

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Madam Speaker, what I indicated yesterday in Washington is that we would not accept amendments to the North American free trade agreement that impinged upon the sovereignty of Canada. If my hon. friend is suggesting something otherwise on behalf of the Liberal Party, then he ought to tell the House of Commons if that is his position.

I indicated we would not accept this and that I could not understand the logic of anybody proposing that trade sanctions be used with a view to destroying a dispute settlement mechanism which is the *causa causans* of the trade agreement in the first place. That being said, I expressed the hope and the belief that this could be worked out by way of negotiations and that appears to be the case.