

*S. O. 31*

Congratulations are due to the minister and everyone involved for their vision and dedication in improving and strengthening our market on the world level.

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**RACIAL DISCRIMINATION**

**Mrs. Sheila Finestone (Mount Royal):** Mr. Speaker, Saturday, March 21 marks International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, a day to remind us that ending racism is a long process whose cause all of us must take up daily.

Last night unfortunately we were reminded again that the ultimate act of racism is terrorism with the bombing of the Israeli embassy in Buenos Aires, Argentina, that killed 11 people, injured 120 including many children, smashed windows for blocks and trapped survivors under the rubble.

It is clear the bombing was intended to scuttle the Middle East peace talks or to intimidate the government into closing recently opened files on Nazi war criminals living in South America.

Let us not allow that cruel act to change the course of history. Let us be sure that the meetings continue to move the world toward peace. This incident also reminds us of the ultimate consequences of racism here at home and around the world.

In Canada our fight against racism and hatred go hand in hand with our tradition of tolerance and respect for individual freedom of expression, be it Salman Rushdie's or Mordecai Richler's right to free speech. Racism must be eliminated.

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**AIR QUALITY ACCORD**

**Mr. Stan Darling (Parry Sound—Muskoka):** Mr. Speaker, exactly one year ago last Friday, the Prime Minister and President Bush affixed their signatures to the historic Canada-U.S. Air Quality Accord.

With the signing of the accord, both countries took a major step forward in undoing some of the damage we have both inflicted on the environment. We still have a long road to travel before the scourge of acid rain is eliminated from our midst. We must remain vigilant to ensure the terms of the accord are rigorously implemented on both sides of the border.

However, I believe the accord is a classic example of what two great peoples can accomplish when they act in the spirit of goodwill and co-operation.

The many individuals who worked to make the accord a reality, including the Prime Minister and you, Mr. Speaker, are to be commended for their tenacity and diligence in helping to ensure a healthier and cleaner environment for all.

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**CO-OP HOUSING**

**Mr. Rey Pagtakhan (Winnipeg North):** Mr. Speaker, all people in Canada have a basic right to shelter. For the poor, co-op housing has been a saviour, putting a roof over thousands of heads, 5,000 in Winnipeg alone. It allows people shut out of the housing market to have choices and to live in dignity.

In Winnipeg North, a pioneer in co-op housing, there are three such units, but likely there will be no more. The federal government has killed the program though 164,000 families remain on the waiting list and more than 4,000 jobs hang in the balance. This is yet another example of classic Tory betrayal.

Somebody has to provide affordable housing to people in need. Federal responsibilities cannot be unloaded on to the backs of the provinces.

I ask this government: Did you kill co-op housing because it is a social safety net, a Liberal legacy, or because the needs of the poor carry no weight with you? Is it the Tory mandate to let food banks feed them and to let the slums house them?

Bring back co-op housing and address the needs of the poor.

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**TOBACCO INDUSTRY**

**Mr. Bruce Halliday (Oxford):** Mr. Speaker, the recently announced export tax on cigarettes of \$8 per carton has caused great anxiety and consternation in the tobacco growing communities in and around Tillsonburg and in my riding of Oxford. As a result, the hon. member for Elgin—Norfolk and I have received a petition signed by about 4,500 constituents.

We acknowledge the need to take action to stop the smuggling of cigarettes into Canada, but a way more appropriate than the export tax needs to be found. Not only will this tax seriously injure tobacco producers, but also the support services in those communities, all the way down to those who operate duty free shops at our border crossings.