

public. They are the storehouses of information and knowledge available to all Canadians. They help us keep pace with this rapidly changing world of ours.

• (1110)

I believe that all parliamentarians owe a debt of gratitude to the staff in the Library of Parliament and to librarians across the Canada for the research, information and education they provide to all Canadians.

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THE BUDGET

COST TO CANADIAN FARMERS OF HIGHER GASOLINE PRICES

Mr. Bob Speller (Haldimand—Norfolk): Mr. Speaker, thanks to the Budget of the Government opposite, farmers will see the price of gasoline rise by seven cents a litre and the price of diesel fuel by four cents a litre by the end of 1989. This stroke of the pen by the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson) will cost Canadian farmers well over \$120 million a year.

The Ontario Corn Producers Association estimates the sum will cost farmers \$2 an acre per year. No other business sector has been singled out for cuts in this Budget as has the agriculture industry.

I ask the Minister of Finance and the Government whether or not they know the importance of agriculture to Canadians and to our Canadian economy? Do they not realize that our farmers are in difficult times? Why does the Minister of Finance not do something about it and bring in good programs? I call on the Government to appoint a full-time Minister of Agriculture who knows the industry, who understands the industry and is prepared to do something for farmers in this country.

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THE MONARCHY

1939 ROYAL TOUR TO CANADA

Mr. Bill Vankoughnet (Hastings—Frontenac—Lennox and Addington): Mr. Speaker, fifty years ago, amidst colour, excitement and pageantry unprecedented in our history, Canadian nationhood was given a significant boost.

The presence on Canadian soil of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth, from May 17 to June 15 1939, put into practice the theory of the statute of Westminster of 1931.

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This is a perspective of the visit that is often neglected among the vivid and fond memories of that exciting time.

The 1931 Statute had changed Canada's status from that essentially of a colony to that of an independent sovereign nation within the British Commonwealth.

The 1939 tour set precedents because not only was it the first time a reigning monarch was visiting Canada, but any of his Dominions. King George VI was here as King of Canada, not as King of the United Kingdom visiting one of his colonies.

In the nation's capital on May 19, three events—accepting the credentials of an envoy, granting Royal Assent, and ratifying two treaties—concentrated attention in a solemn and colourful manner on Canada as a sovereign constitutional monarchy.

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TAXATION

WRITE-OFFS FOR ADVERTISING

Mr. Jim Karpoff (Surrey North): Mr. Speaker, press reports today show clearly what utter contempt Canada's largest corporations have for our Canadian political system, for our tax system, and for the Canadian people.

The corporations which helped buy the last election for the Conservative Party are now asking for their part of the pay off. They want to be able to write off from their profits the money they spent on advertising supporting the trade deal.

We are not talking about small sums. The Canadian Alliance for Trade and Job Opportunities spent nearly \$6 million in two years promoting their own brand of job opportunities in Georgia.

The Business Council on National Issues spent nearly \$1 million, and 75 big corporations like Alcan contributed an average of \$50,000 a piece.

In fact, we do not even know how many companies were involved. Noranda gave the Canadian Alliance for Trade and Job Opportunities as much as \$250,000. But the Alliance refuses to provide a list of its corporate supporters. Like the insects that hide under rocks, these companies and their directors do not have the guts to face the light of Canadian public scrutiny. Big business gets its way in Canada.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The Hon. Member for Edmonton Southwest (Mr. Edwards).