

S.O. 22

of Canada extends beyond southern Ontario and does in fact encompass the remaining 94 per cent of our fine country.

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## ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

REPORT SUBMITTED BY CANADIAN AND UNITED STATES  
ENVOYS

**Mr. Stan Darling (Parry Sound-Muskoka):** Mr. Speaker, the report furnished by the acid rain envoys representing Canada and the United States is realistic and timely. Although most of us on this side of the border would have preferred to see a tougher stance on some issues, we must not ignore the prevailing political winds blowing to the south.

For the first time in the history of our countries it is agreed that acid precipitation is a serious trans-boundary problem. Bill Davis and Drew Lewis realized that a report filled with idealism and ultimatums would have negated the entire process of negotiation. Instead, it appears Mr. Lewis has given the President a report which stands a good chance of acceptance.

The envoys' report would almost certainly be hidden on a back shelf if it contained unrealistic recommendations. The envoys were not appointed to look for a quick fix where none exists. Bill Davis and Drew Lewis are to be congratulated by the people of Canada and the United States for doing a fine job in the face of adversity. Hopefully their efforts will bring our countries closer to an agreement on long-range air pollutants. The envoys' report may serve to nudge the U.S. executive branch in the right direction.

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[Translation]

## EMPLOYMENT

GOVERNMENT'S PERFORMANCE

**Mr. Gabriel Desjardins (Témiscamingue):** Mr. Speaker, Statistics Canada recently published its latest figures on unemployment in Canada, and they showed that unemployment in this country dropped to 10 per cent in December 1985, the lowest level since 1982. Some 372,000 new jobs were created in Canada in 1985, bringing to 450,000 the number of new jobs created by our Government since its election.

In Quebec, Mr. Speaker, 118,000 new jobs were created in 1985, the best performance since 1980, bringing to 136,000 the number of new jobs created in Quebec since the election of our Government. The encouraging aspect is that most of those jobs went to young Canadians aged 15 to 24. Interestingly enough, in Quebec alone the unemployment rate dropped from 12.8 to 11.7 per cent between September 1984 and December 1985, a decline of 1.1 per cent.

In my own region of Abitibi-Témiscamingue, Mr. Speaker, unemployment went from 19 to 14 per cent, a remarkable 5 per cent decrease.

Mr. Speaker, job creation was the main objective of this Government during the election campaign, and we are clearly showing Canadians that we respect and honour our election promises.

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[English]

## ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

ACID RAIN—CALL FOR ACTION BY UNITED STATES

**Hon. Chas. L. Caccia (Davenport):** Mr. Speaker, Canadians across the country are asking the question: "What next in the acid rain saga?" The ball is back where it was a year ago. The report of the envoys on acid rain unfortunately contains no control program, no target dates, no percentage cuts in emissions and where to apply them in a manner most favourable to Canada, no \$5 billion program if industry shows no interest, no reference to the cost of inaction, and no effort to build on the memorandum of intent signed in 1980. The report shows that the authors were mesmerised by the cost of action and ignored the cost of inaction. In 1981 Tom Crocker of the University of Wyoming estimated that cost at \$5.5 billion per year. The report ignores the fact that U.S. legislation exists to permit immediate action if the political will is there.

● (1110)

The Prime Minister of Canada (Mr. Mulroney) is in the impossible position of having to rely on U.S. industry and, to make it worse, voluntary action on their part. The Prime Minister has been given a report that favours research over action. He must act to regain the confidence of Canadians in his ability to tackle acid rain. We cannot wait when our lakes, forests, and fish are dying. We must have action in the U.S. now.

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## EMPLOYMENT

INCREASED JOB CREATION

**Mr. Alan Redway (York East):** Mr. Speaker, figures released last Friday by StatsCan reveal that 36,000 new jobs were created in Canada during the month of December. This puts the total new job creation at 311,000 for 1985, and 450,000 for the first 15 months of the Progressive Conservative Government.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Redway:** In addition, the unemployment rate has fallen to 10 per cent, its lowest level in years.

These results contrast dramatically with the job creation record of the previous Liberal Government. We know, as do