

S. O. 21

THE OPTIMISTS

ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW CLUB IN DUBERGER

Mr. Marcel R. Tremblay (Québec-Est): Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure and pride that I take this opportunity to draw the attention of the House today to an event that is very important to the people of Duberger, and I am referring to the creation of a new Optimist Club.

Mr. Speaker, this service club, which is mainly involved in youth programs and has a reputation for generous and effective community involvement, is a valuable addition to any community and enjoys the regard and respect of those they have helped through their activities.

The optimist philosophy transcends race, colour, creed and class. With an optimistic outlook, a person, group or even a nation can accomplish the impossible. Without optimism, the battle is lost before the first shot is fired. On April 30, the Optimists of Duberger officially took their first step towards a formidable goal.

I want to congratulate Mr. Claude Forest, the first president of the Optimist Club of Duberger, and all those who made this project possible. I wish them every success in their work with our youth!

* * *

[English]

AGRICULTURE

DROUGHT IN WESTERN CANADA—PREMIERS' MEETING

Ms. Pauline Jewett (New Westminster—Coquitlam): Mr. Speaker, the resolve of the people of western Canada is being tested again. A devastating drought continues to turn fertile, productive farmland into parched, barren fields.

Scenes reminiscent of the early 1930s have filled our television screens, alerting all Canadians to the sorry plight of many farmers forced to abandon a way of life because of a cruel quirk of fate.

In stark contrast, the premiers of the four western provinces are now meeting in regal splendour to discuss this latest crisis. They are holding their talks on a private \$3 million luxury liner. They will be ferried to and from their pleasure boat by a fleet of gleaming white stretch limousines, each one customized with personalized licence plates.

Their extravagance is galling. It reflects the shameful insensitivity of western Canadian Premiers to the difficulties facing western Canadian citizens.

[Translation]

FOLKLORE

INVITATION TO DRUMMONDVILLE WORLD FOLKLORE FESTIVAL

Mr. Jean-Guy Guilbault (Drummond): Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to invite all Members and all Canadians to the riding of Drummond, where the Seventh World Folklore Festival will be held from July 8 to 18.

[English]

Each year, in early July, the Drummondville World Folklore Festival welcomes entertainers from more than 15 countries, with 40 exceptionally talented folklore groups and more than 1,500 musicians, singers, and dancers offering over 300 shows. Last year more than 700,000 spectators attended the festival's various events.

[Translation]

The World Folklore Festival welcomes you to its many activities, to a magic rendez-vous where masks will be the theme of the festivities.

Enjoy this world of folklore where day and night, dancing, music, shows, concerts, special programs and parades will be a feast for the eyes, ears and heart.

Don't miss the World Folklore Festival in Drummondville!

* * *

[English]

TRADE

CANADA-UNITED STATES FREE TRADE AGREEMENT—POSITION OF NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CONSUMERS OF QUÉBEC

Mr. Dave Dingwall (Cape Breton—East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, according to the National Association of Consumers of Quebec, the free trade agreement is a lemon. Marie Vezina, the spokesperson for this group, told *La Presse* that they had used statistics and trade numbers from the Department of Finance as a basis for their research. They came to the conclusion that the Mulroney trade deal is bad for Canada, especially with respect to electricity, hydro, tariffs and telephone services.

Marie Vezina is encouraging all members of that organization to oppose the agreement during the upcoming election.

I want to stress that this group represents consumers. It is fortunate that we have such groups in Canada because it is quite clear that the Government does not represent consumers. It has turned the Ministry of Consumer and Corporate Affairs into the Ministry of Corporate Affairs. Again and again we see consumers being financially sapped by the Government.

The Government's record with respect to consumers is shameful. It has sold out to multinational interests in the pharmaceutical industry at the expense of consumers. It has