

information for all communities in this country. This information is used by businesses and community groups in making decisions that affect us all.

Once completed, the census questionnaire is strictly confidential. The information it provides will be used to create various statistics on the entire country. Once collected, these data are indispensable for all Canadians. So count yourself in on June 3, 1986!

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## THE ECONOMY

### IMPROVEMENT OF ECONOMY IN KAMOURASKA

**Mr. André Plourde (Kamouraska—Rivière-du-Loup):** Mr. Speaker, "the economic recovery observed in Canada and Quebec was particularly evident in Kamouraska in 1985, when there was a 29.5 per cent increase in the value of goods shipped by our 68 manufacturing companies".

Mr. Speaker, I was quoting the beginning of a speech by the president of Kodécam at that company's annual general meeting.

I am proud of the fact that assistance provided by our Government has helped the Kamouraska region take advantage of the economic recovery announced in November 1984. In his speech, Mr. Michel Paquet mentioned the fact that six new businesses had been created. The number of industrial jobs had increased by 7.3 per cent, for a total of 2,331 jobs spread over eight industrial sectors.

Mr. Speaker, our Government was right to support the dynamic and innovative business leaders in my riding. I want to thank the retiring president, Mr. Paquet, and his team for the tremendous work they have accomplished, and I wish to extend my best wishes to the new president, Bertrand Soucy, for a successful term.

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● (1410)

[English]

## MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

### ALLEGED RACIAL SLUR

**Mr. Sergio Marchi (York West):** Mr. Speaker, I feel an obligation to rise for a second time to request that the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) ask the Conservative Member of Parliament for Nunatsiag (Mr. Suluk) to apologize for his March 3 statement of "mafia mafioso" directed at the Hon. Member for Bourassa (Mr. Rossi). The latter is a distinguished Canadian of Italian ancestry, and neither he nor any other Canadian deserves to be addressed in such a derogatory manner.

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On March 4 I asked, without success, for an apology. Moreover, the Prime Minister has since been petitioned by organizations within the Canadian-Italian community, again without success, to seek an apology.

The community does not tolerate such a degrading incident, and neither should this House. Therefore I call upon the Prime Minister to obtain an immediate and appropriate apology from his caucus member. Nothing less would be acceptable. Failure to respond is paramount to condoning this offensive characterization.

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## DISASTERS

### SOVIET NUCLEAR REACTOR ACCIDENT IN UKRAINE—FACTUAL INFORMATION REQUESTED

**Mr. Andrew Witer (Parkdale—High Park):** Mr. Speaker, Canadians are frustrated and angered by the lack of information being released by the Soviet Union following the disaster at Chernobyl. What information exists indicates that 19 people are dead, 300 are being treated for radiation sickness, and up to 1,000 may die of cancer. This report comes weeks after the event.

On the day of the disaster the Soviets denied that the accident had occurred. For three days following the initial explosion there was no information. A callous policy of misrepresentation and cover-up has been put in place.

We have seen this pattern of state-controlled misinformation in the past. Is this not a repeat of the 1933 Ukrainian famine cover-up? The apparent openness of the Soviet Government in the past several days is nothing more than a public relations exercise. Given the past record of this secretive regime, we are left to fear the worst.

I urge the Canadian Government to use every resource at its disposal to pressure the Soviet Government to release factual information regarding this disastrous event.

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## EXTERNAL AID

### AFRICA—CANADIAN ASSISTANCE MEASURES

**Mr. Ernie Epp (Thunder Bay—Nipigon):** Mr. Speaker, the Government is to be commended for its consideration of a moratorium on loan repayments by African countries. These countries are desperately anxious to rebuild after years of famine. They need relief from the repayment of loans to western aid agencies in order to devote scarce resources to agricultural development.

A loan moratorium is a wise Canadian response. It is also a just one. As the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr.