

[English]

MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS

FORTHCOMING TORONTO SUMMIT—TREATMENT OF HOMELESS

Mr. Dan Heap (Spadina): Mr. Speaker, in 1984 Toronto Police arrested and jailed homeless men during the visit of the Pope, no doubt so that His Holiness would not ask whether Toronto has beggars. Now with the Economic Summit in view Toronto Police are apparently cleaning up again.

Recently, police officers approached street kids near the Eaton Centre and said: "Be off the street soon or we will crack your heads". Homeless men and prostitutes are already being harassed for the edification of Ronald Reagan, Margaret Thatcher, and the Prime Minister's other guests.

The Prime Minister's guests will not be planning for the 10,000 homeless in Toronto, nor for the millions of homeless in Latin America, Africa, and Asia. They will not be planning for the thousands who must use Toronto's food banks, nor for the hundreds of millions around the world who go to bed hungry. They will be planning to make the wealthy countries wealthier, to collect external debt from the poorest in the world, to protect the seven wealthy summit countries from the desperate peoples of Europe's former colonies, our present debt prisoners.

Shame on all who try to hide from the poor. Inasmuch as we turn away from these poor, we turn away from God.

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THE ECONOMY

CREATION OF JOBS

Mr. Allan Pietz (Welland): Mr. Speaker, the Government's free trade legislation is a milestone for Canada. It marks this country's coming of age. Some people of other political persuasions would have us believe that we are not ready for it—that is ridiculous.

Since the Foreign Investment Review Agency was disbanded and replaced by Investment Canada, the Canadian economy has outperformed all other western industrialized nations. Canadian independent businessmen have responded with enthusiasm to the Government's incentives. Canadians are investing more money in this country than anyone else. This type of enthusiasm means jobs for Canadians.

During the last federal election the promise of jobs was a cornerstone of the winning political campaign. By improving the business climate for both Canadian and foreign investors 1,223,000 jobs have been created in Canada over the last three years.

According to well respected, non-partisan sources, such as the Economic Council of Canada, 150,000 more jobs will be created once the free trade agreement comes into effect.

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MINERS MEMORIAL DAY

REMEMBRANCE OF HARDSHIPS AND SACRIFICE

Mr. Dave Dingwall (Cape Breton—East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to the attention of the House the celebration of a very special day for the people of Cape Breton—Miners Memorial Day which will be celebrated on June 11.

Miners Memorial Day is an important day. It is a day of reflection, time to remember the hardships, sacrifice, and personal danger that are part of the lifestyle of a coal miner in Cape Breton. It is a day to pay tribute to those who lost their lives in our coal mines. In addition, it is a day to salute all miners and their families for their outstanding contribution to the coal industry and to our community.

The history of Cape Breton is a history of hard work and sacrifice deep under the ground in the coal mines. Although the industry has been on the decline for the last number of years, it still remains a vitally important part of our history, both past and present.

● (1415)

On behalf of all my constituents, may I warmly congratulate and salute the miners of Cape Breton on Miners Memorial Day.

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POLITICAL PARTIES

POSITION OF NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY ON PRIVATE MEMBER'S BILL

Mr. W. Paul McCrossan (York-Scarborough): Mr. Speaker, the NDP have long argued that they oppose the free trade agreement in principle. That I respect. However, in registering its opposition to the FTA this morning, the NDP resorted to unprincipled measures.

On recorded vote Members unanimously supported the NDP's House Leader's Private Member's Bill to designate Raoul Wallenberg an honorary citizen of Canada. However, when the question was put orally before the recorded vote I heard only NDP Members, led by the Hon. Member for Nickel Belt (Mr. Rodriguez), shout "No". Furthermore, only NDP Members, led by the Hon. Member for Nickel Belt, stood up to demand a vote, even though they intended in the end to support the Bill.

The irony is tragic. Raoul Wallenberg was a man willing to sacrifice his freedom and even his life for principle. How would he react to this unprincipled use of his name to delay and to abuse the rights freely given by the House to private Members to introduce Bills?