

*Adjournment Debate*

As he may also know, both the government and the Canadian industry have been expressing to the U.S. administration and the U.S. industry our strong view that including imports from Canada in these petitions is unnecessary and potentially destructive to the mutually beneficial trade in steel between our two countries and would likely precipitate a major bilateral trade dispute between Canada and the United States.

We have emphasized to the U.S. administration, most recently during the June 9 meeting between the hon. minister for International Trade and U.S. trade representative Hills, that while U.S. steel imports from Canada have remained stable, Canadian steel imports from the United States have tripled in recent years.

In 1991 imports from the United States accounted for over 16 percent of our market as compared to the 3.3 percent of the U.S. market accounted for by Canada.

The government has also emphasized that if included in the U.S. petitions, the Canadian steel industry would have no choice but to include imports from the United States in unfair trade cases that they are preparing against imports into Canada.

On the latter point, the Canadian steel industry is committed to taking action against imports of steel from the United States should their exports be targeted by the U.S. industry. The government stands ready to initiate investigations based on complaints filed by the Canadian industry.

We are extremely disappointed in the response of the U.S. administration to our message and would deeply regret it if the U.S. industry chose to include Canada in its petitions.

Madam Speaker, in conclusion I would like to join my hon. colleague from South Shore in wishing a happy holiday to you and to the staff who assist you in carrying out your duties, and to all the Canadians who are listening to us.

[*English*]

## CHILDREN

**Mr. Mac Harb (Ottawa Centre):** Madam Speaker, on June 12, I asked the minister of state a question concerning the full indexation of the child tax credit so that it would be tied to inflation. She answered by

referring to the deficit as a reason why we have child poverty. I am not sure the minister knew at the time about the magnitude of the problem in my region of Ottawa—Carleton.

I want to elaborate on my question in order to make the point that child poverty is a major national issue that needs the attention of everyone. In our region the number of children who are poor is really alarmingly high. Fourteen per cent of all children under 18 years of age are poor. That is approximately 19,000 children who are living in poverty.

• (1830)

Poor children normally live in poor families. Children are poor because their families are poor. Their parent or parents do not earn enough income to provide for the basic physical and social necessities of life. For example, in excess of 12,000 families with children are living in poverty in my region of Ottawa—Carleton. Also the number of poor two-parent families is almost equal to the number of single-parent families living in poverty.

Young families are extremely poor. Fifty-five per cent of families living in this region with children where the household maintainer is under the age of 25 are living in poverty. The situation improves somewhat for a family with children where the household maintainer is between the ages of 25 and 34, but one out of five of these families is also poor.

Also, Madam Speaker, you will be very sad to learn that 93 per cent of all single parent families living in poverty in our region are headed by women. The poverty rate for single mothers is 33 per cent and 12 per cent for single fathers. That translates into 5,725 single mothers who are living in poverty and 455 single fathers are poor in my region.

The poverty rate for single mothers increases with the number of children. For example, 29 per cent of single mothers with one child are poor and 56 per cent of single mothers with four or more children are poor.

This has a tremendous impact on the education of children. Approximately one out of three students in Ontario, as a whole, drops out before completing grade 12, and it is no different for this region. Nearly one out of four families with children where the household maintainer has not completed high school is living in poverty.