

S.O. 31

tial funds in the United States and Canada will be released to guarantee cleaner air for a healthier environment in both our countries.

This is a great day for the whole North American continent, since our countries are committed to controlling transboundary air pollution. I want Quebecers and the people of Beauce to realize that without the leadership shown by Brian Mulroney, today's ceremony would not take place.

Madam Speaker, as the member for Beauce, I take pride in having organized a major seminar on acid rain and in having kept up the pressure on the government. Once again, the voice of the people of Beauce has been heard!

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[English]

AGRICULTURE

Mr. Vic Althouse (Mackenzie): Madam Speaker, since President Bush is in town today, I hope the Prime Minister takes an opportunity to discuss the U.S. loan rate on grain with him. The loan rate guides the price established on the Chicago grain market, and a modest increase of at least \$1 a bushel in the loan rate would substantially raise world grain prices and reduce government deficiency payment expenditures to farmers.

Beneficiaries of such a policy would be taxpayers in the U.S. and Canada and farmers in both countries and in all other countries, including Third World farmers; U.S.-Canada deficits would be reduced; trade figures and trade balances in Canada and the U.S. would increase substantially.

Surely our leaders cannot reject such a good and sensible proposal, and I trust that the Prime Minister and the President will be able to make such an announcement after today.

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CLEAN AIR ACCORD

Mr. Stan Darling (Parry Sound—Muskoka): Madam Speaker, at 3:35 p.m. this afternoon, our two great nations will conclude a formal Canada-U.S. air quality agreement of historical proportions. With the signatures of President George Bush and the Right Hon. Prime Minister Brian Mulroney firmly affixed to the document,

a major precedent will have been set in undoing some of the damage man has inflicted on the environment.

Beyond a doubt, the fight against acid rain has been long and hard but Prime Minister Brian Mulroney is to be commended. By placing acid rain high on his personal agenda, we are here today reaping the fruits of his efforts.

As one of the many who has been heavily involved in the battle against acid rain for over ten years, I can honestly say that today is the culmination of time and energy well spent and invested. The future now looks clearer and cleaner.

As well, we must not fail to commend Speaker Fraser for the great job that he has done as an environmentalist and a former Minister of the Environment.

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MIDDLE EAST

Mr. David Dingwall (Cape Breton—East Richmond): Madam Speaker, the most positive outcome to the recent war in the gulf would, of course, be a lasting peace between Israel and its Arab neighbours. When we consider that Jews, Muslims and Christians have lived side by side in the Middle East for thousands of years, such a peace is long past due. Until now, the deep rifts of hatred and misunderstanding have often led to horrible abuses. For example, Jews, living in Syria since before Roman times, see their most basic rights denied.

In the past we have had difficult and unpleasant relationships with Syria, but during the gulf war Syria was our ally; Syria was Israel's ally. This very fact of fighting on the same side has created an opening for new understanding between them.

Peace must be built on such an understanding and human rights abuses on all sides must stop.

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[Translation]

THE BLOC QUEBECOIS

Mr. Gilles Rocheleau (Hull—Aylmer): Madam Speaker, I have an important point to make, further to what was said by the Prime Minister yesterday in the House. The Prime Minister said that reconciliation does not come easy. It calls for humility and understanding. It