

*Oral Questions*

Deregulation is not helping consumers. Consumers of natural gas in Manitoba and Ontario are paying \$125 a year more than they should be. That costs \$60 million in Manitoba and \$600 million in Ontario. The Energy Ministers of Canada should look at this unfair and unequal situation.

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**TRADE**

## CANADA-UNITED STATES NEGOTIATIONS—SUPPORT FROM U.S. PRESIDENT

**Mr. Don Ravis (Saskatoon East):** Mr. Speaker, last evening in President Reagan's State of the Union Address he pledged to conclude a "historic" free trade agreement with Canada, their largest international trading partner. This can certainly be seen as a positive indication of the Reagan administration's continued support of a trade enhancement deal.

Canada survives on trade. Over 30 per cent of our national income is generated by exports. As our most important trading partner, 78 per cent of our exports enter the U.S. market and 22 per cent of their exports enter through our borders.

No former Canadian Government has approached this 120-year-old problem in such a spirit of co-operation. Instead of co-operating with our closest and most significant trading partner, the previous administration chose to suffocate measures leading to a comprehensive trade agreement.

The Conservative Government is committed to further negotiate bilateral trade talks with our friends south of the border in order to ensure a framework which will create employment in every region in Canada and enhance our economic recovery.

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**DISASTERS**

## PUERTO RICAN HOTEL FIRE—BETTER INFORMATION SOUGHT FOR CANADIAN TRAVELLERS

**Mr. Roland de Corneille (Eglinton—Lawrence):** Mr. Speaker, on New Year's Eve a tragic fire at the Dupont Plaza Hotel in San Juan, Puerto Rico, claimed the lives of 96 people, two of whom were from my riding. It is with the greatest sympathy that I express my regrets to their families. The origin of this fire presumably began over a bitter labour dispute between the union and management at that hotel.

I have a recommendation for the Department of External Affairs and the Department of Transport. I suggest to the Ministers that there be regulations requiring airlines and travel agencies to inform their customers of the regions of the world where terrorism or political or labour-management unrest exists. This would provide the Canadian travelling

public with invaluable information when deciding where to holiday.

As a precautionary measure, Canadians deserve to be aware of violent disputes, and I strongly urge the Ministers to consider my recommendation.

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**THE SENATE**

## CONCEPT OF ELECTED SENATE SUPPORTED

**Mr. William G. Lesick (Edmonton East):** Mr. Speaker, a recent survey by the Canadian Press revealed that less than one-third of the 104 Senators attended regular sittings of the Senate during the fall session. This was out of 19 sitting days.

Exceptional circumstances such as ill health are understandable, but such a lack of enthusiasm from this predominantly Liberal body calls for a reassessment of the role of the Senate and potential Senate reform. It is time that serious consideration is given to the concept of an elected Senate, responsible to the voters of Canada for its action or inaction.

The people of my Province of Alberta have long supported the concept of a Triple E Senate, one that is elected, equal, and effective. Many Albertans are impatient for such change as they feel that Alberta's proper place in Confederation can only be enhanced by an elected Senate.

The Senate is indeed a necessary part of our Confederation and its purpose for existence is sound. However, the time has come for Senate reform and the accountability of the Senate to the people of Canada.

**ORAL QUESTION PERIOD**

[English]

**FISHERIES**

## ALLOCATION OF COD FISHING QUOTAS TO FRENCH VESSELS

**Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans. Last year French fishermen overfished off the coast of Newfoundland by about 21,000 metric tonnes of cod. The Minister may know that that is about nine million codfish. If one stretched those cod end to end, they would form a line from Newfoundland right across the ocean to Paris. Despite that, the Minister has authorized an additional quota of 15,000 metric tonnes. Surely it is enough for his Government to have sold out the forestry workers of Canada to the United States; why did he sell out our fishermen to France?

**Hon. Thomas Siddon (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans):** First, Mr. Speaker, I am rather surprised that the Hon. Leader of the Opposition did not do his homework or at least read the