

Investment counsellors throughout the world are saying that once again Canada is a good place to invest. I hope that will encourage the Bank of Canada this week to cut interest rates again, both to stimulate our economy further and to produce more jobs, and I hope that such a reduction in the rate will at last shame our major chartered banks and trust companies into cutting their credit card rates.

* * *

[Translation]

THE ARTS

URGENT NEED TO SAVE NATIONAL THEATRE SCHOOL

Mrs. Lucie Pépin (Outremont): Mr. Speaker, the management of the National Theatre School is in its death throes.

The management of the National Theatre School is a daily source of dissatisfaction; no new program can be undertaken because of a lack of financial resources; the teachers are underpaid; there is a \$400,000 deficit . . . soon, if the liquidity problems come to a head, it will be too late to save the institution.

These are the words of the school's resigning President, Mr. Jean-Louis Roux. A few weeks ago, wardrobe master François Barbeau resigned as director of the technical section after 25 years with the school. Naturally, it has even been recommended or suspected that the English section of the school, which is a unique institution, move to Toronto, and I believe that this could mean the end of the school as such.

I therefore ask the Minister responsible for this sector and all of the ministers from Quebec to urge the Government to find a solution as quickly as possible. I know that the Federal Government is generous with its subsidies, but I would also like it to show some leadership to breathe new life into a school which has done Quebecers and all Canadians proud, both in this country and abroad.

* * *

● (1410)

[English]

WAR CRIMINALS

PUBLIC REACTION TO DESCHÊNES COMMISSION REPORT

Mr. Don Ravis (Saskatoon East): Mr. Speaker, during the past several days I have paid particular attention to the reaction of Canadians to the Deschênes Commission Report and the Government's response. I think it fair to say that it was widely praised by the eastern European community and the Canadian Jewish Congress, knowing the issue was finally addressed and discovering the number of war criminals was fewer than expected. They applauded the "Made in Canada" solution to the problem of dealing with suspected war criminals by the Canadian justice system and the RCMP. To quote the President of the Ukrainian Canadian Committee from his

S. O. 21

home in Saskatoon: "We agree with the Government that rather than having these people denaturalized and deported they should be tried in Canada using Canadian rules of justice".

I congratulate the Minister of Justice (Mr. Hnatyshyn) for his excellent work. Because the Government had the courage to address this difficult issue future generations of Canadians will be proud that our justice system finally put this issue to rest.

* * *

APARTHEID

SPONSORSHIP OF INDIAN CHIEFS' VISIT TO SOUTH AFRICA

Mr. Howard McCurdy (Windsor—Walkerville): Mr. Speaker, Norm Wallace and his South African foundation are sending four Indian chiefs to South Africa to dramatize the plight of Canadian Indians. It is a nice touch. The chiefs will certainly be noticed, perhaps even praised as freedom fighters by a white regime which denies freedom to its own citizens in a land where freedom, if uttered too provocatively, can bring death.

Racism is a common enemy shared by both Indians and Africans alike. However, it is a weakened adversary in Canada while in South Africa it is mightily armed. Those who make common cause with that enemy will have found their worst enemy, themselves. The Assembly of First Nations understands that. Perhaps the chiefs will learn.

* * *

TRADE

SUPPORT FOR CANADA-UNITED STATES NEGOTIATIONS

Mr. Jim Jepson (London East): Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to rise today and commend the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) for the bold initiative he took in bringing the free trade debate to the House yesterday.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Jepson: The Prime Minister has a clear vision for Canada and hopefully this will put the political rhetoric of the Opposition and the negative media hype to rest for good.

As we enter the final half of our Government's first mandate it would be so easy for the Prime Minister and our Government to avoid any initiatives which would leave the Government politically vulnerable. However, the Prime Minister and our Government have faith in Canadians and the entrepreneurial spirit to step boldly into the new frontier by negotiating a new trading arrangement with the U.S. This will not only protect but create thousands of new jobs which will ensure the future of Canada's younger generation. Leadership