

## S. O. 31

20 per cent last year and will undoubtedly exceed 20 per cent this year.

Let's look at some facts. Unemployment has fallen by 8,000 since we took office. In percentage terms, unemployment was at 16 per cent when we took office and is now at 12 per cent, a reduction of 4 per cent. Exports are up, farm cash receipts are up. Private sector construction is up, manufacturing shipments are up. Much to the chagrin of our Opposition, things are looking good in New Brunswick and under this government will continue to be good.

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[Translation]

## HAITIAN POLITICAL REFUGEES

**Hon. André Ouellet (Papineau—Saint-Michel):** Mr. Speaker, two days ago, I received a delegation from the Viau ethnic groups centre headed by Rev. Charles Martin in my riding office. They protested the lifting of the moratorium on Haitian political refugees.

We do not really understand how the Conservative Government can claim that the situation in Haiti has returned to normal and how it can now expel anyone it thinks is no longer welcome in Canada, without endangering these people who are fighting for democracy and freedom.

Right after the coup d'état which brought him to power, General April promised to restore democracy with no turning back. Today, many Haitians instead fear that he will rule as an iron-handed dictator and they certainly expect the Canadian Government to understand the situation better.

[English]

**Mr. Speaker:** The Chair has noticed the very beautiful bouquets that are on the desks of some hon. members and while I would be the last one to remove beauty from this Chamber, I must remind hon. members that it probably breaches the guidelines which we have set for ourselves on using other items to make demonstrations, and I would ask hon. members to co-operate.

[Translation]

## REGIONAL INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

**Mr. Gabriel Desjardins (Témiscamingue):** Mr. Speaker, for the sixth year in a row, I wish to thank the Témiscamingue Economic Development Corporation for organizing its "Météoritem" gala.

I would like to point out the remarkable work and leadership of the companies that received very special mention: in the agri-food sector, G.M.S. fish products of Laniel, distributor of the famous whitefish caviar; in the tourism sector, the Truck Rodeo of Notre-Dame du Nord; in the manufacturing sector, Marik Concrete of Ville-Marie and Témiscamingue; in trade and services, the Vivacolor Photo Studio of Ville-Marie; businesses of the year, all categories: Témisko of Notre-Dame du Nord and Cardinal Forestry Equipment of Angliers. Finally, the entrepreneurs of the year in my region: Guylain Paquin, owner of Châlain Farm in Saint-Bruno de Guigues, and Joachim Robitaille, president and CEO of Dolo-Mine in Saint-Bruno de Guigues.

Congratulations to all these companies whose determination and dynamism contribute to the economic development of our beautiful Témiscamingue region.

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[English]

## VIA RAIL

**Mr. Les Benjamin (Regina—Lumsden):** Mr. Speaker, it was the Minister of Finance and his department who did the studies on VIA Rail in preparation for the last budget.

Where was the Minister of Transport and his department? It was the Minister of Transport and two other people in the department who knew nothing about the environment who did the environmental study. Where was the Minister and the Department of the Environment? Doesn't anybody in the government do their own job?

A great Canadian, Doctor Suzuki, said the VIA Rail decision is being justified by an environmental assessment, but such analyses have almost no scientific value. It is clear the study was done in a hurry to satisfy the minister's political agenda. The VIA Rail decision must