

subsidy offered to Canadian shipyards for new vessel construction.

The Conservative government has totally reneged on its 1984 election promise to adopt a national shipbuilding policy as a top priority and has instead presided over the further erosion of the industry through a rationalization policy of delay, neglect and downsizing.

And now the final insult: the motor vessel *Arctic*, 51 per cent owned by the Government of Canada, is going to a Spanish shipyard for major repairs at a time when thousands of shipyard workers in Canada are out of work.

It is time that Canada matched shipbuilding support offered by our competitors' countries. It is time that shipyard work goes to Canadians.

* * *

[Translation]

TAXI INDUSTRY

Mr. Alfonso Gagliano (Saint-Léonard): Mr. Speaker, I rise today to defend taxi licence holders at Montreal International Airport. The director of Dorval Airport raised the price of operating permits by 84 per cent plus GST. Many tax licence holders who did not pay these additional charges by April 5, 1991, lost their right to work at that airport. Most airport licence holders report that their income has dropped 46 per cent on average because of the GST and the recession created by this government. The higher licence costs mean that each licence holder must earn nearly \$2,000 a year more on average.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the director of Montreal International Airport to reconsider this huge unjustified increase. Let us give taxi drivers at Dorval Airport a chance during this period of economic crisis.

* * *

• (1410)

AIR CADET LEAGUE OF CANADA

Mr. Jean-Guy Hudon (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, today marks a special event for an important group of young Canadians. On this date in 1941, the Air Cadet League of

S. O. 31

Canada received its charter authorizing it to set up a reserve of aviators who would be trained for service in the Royal Canadian Air Force, which was then participating in the war effort.

More recently, the League and the Canadian Armed Forces worked together to provide a series of aviation-related training programs for young men and women aged 12 to 19, with the aim of producing better citizens for Canada.

The Air Cadets now have some 27,000 young people in 440 squadrons from coast to coast, in communities such as Bishop's Falls, Acton, Abitibi, Peace River, Don Valley East, Yukon and Valleyfield, in my riding, to name only a few.

The Cadets provide our youth with very valuable civic training and in many cases are the most significant activity for young people in the outlying regions of Canada.

I am sure, Mr. Speaker, that all members of this House join me in offering the Air Cadet League of Canada our sincerest congratulations and best wishes for success in the future, on their 50th anniversary.

* * *

[English]

HOUSING

Mr. Garth Turner (Halton—Peel): Mr. Speaker, some politicians would have Canadians think the economy is in tatters and investor confidence is in shreds.

However, numbers released yesterday tell a different story. They tell a story of renewed hope for the future and the willingness of average Canadians to ignore the rhetoric here and go about their lives.

Those numbers came from the Toronto Real Estate Board, and show that the sales level of resale homes in that city was up 120 per cent in March over the same period a year earlier. Almost 5,800 homes changed hands in a single month and that is up 64 per cent from the month earlier, the fifth best month ever. Why? Because interest rates have come down, inflationary house prices have come down, and buyer confidence has gone up. Times may still be tough, but I find it hard to think of a more powerful symbol that there are better days ahead.