

S.O. 21

[Translation]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

IMPENDING VISIT BY UNITED STATES PRESIDENT—QUEBEC

Mr. Gabriel Desjardins (Témiscamingue): Mr. Speaker, thanks to the Prime Minister of Canada (Mr. Mulroney), at the end of the week, on March 17 and 18, the Province of Quebec will be hosting an historic event.

Mr. Speaker, the summit meeting between the President of the United States and the Prime Minister of Canada is particularly significant for the people of Quebec. We would have to go back as far as 1944 in Quebec's history to find a meeting as prestigious as this one. The entire international press will be covering this event, and for a few days, Quebec will be the focal point of the world's attention. Mr. Speaker, this is a unique opportunity to acquaint millions of viewers with the warmth and cultural riches of the people of this province.

Mr. Speaker, I realize that this event must bother our hon. friends opposite, who over the years have slowly but surely succeeded in letting our relations deteriorate and destroying a friendship that is so essential to the harmonious economic development of our two countries.

Mr. Speaker, we on this side of the House are convinced it is both healthy and desirable that two great democracies that share the same continent, that two sovereign nations should entertain cordial and harmonious relations. I say three cheers for the Prime Minister!

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[English]

EDUCATION

PROVINCIAL EXPENDITURES ON POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION

Mr. Roland de Corneille (Eglinton-Lawrence): Mr. Speaker, Liberals on this side of the House agree that federal funds which are targeted for post-secondary education must be used for that specific purpose and not skimmed off for other purposes by provincial Governments. That was one of the major concerns which prompted the previous Liberal Government to commission the Johnson report on post-secondary education.

Since that report was commissioned, the situation has taken what could be called a more conservative twist. In the Province of Ontario, the Tory Treasurer made a grab into the pockets of the students and called for major increases in the cost of tuition. At the same time, while the Province of Ontario will get a 7.4 per cent increase in federal funds which earmarked for post-secondary education, it plans to pass on only five 5 per cent of that amount and steal 2.4 per cent from Ontario colleges and universities.

The Conservative federal Government has already shown a marked antipathy toward post-secondary education. It has cut

back federal research grants for scientific, medical, and environmental research. It has cut back the student loans program which assisted students in paying their tuition. It has massacred the Centres of Excellence Program and removed it from existence. What we are seeing is the emergence of an elitism against those students who are financially less well-off than their richer counterparts.

Through its own cuts the Conservative Government has badly weakened the post-secondary education system at a time when it is acknowledged that education and training are the keys to jobs and economic development.

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ENERGY

FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL NEGOTIATIONS—CALL FOR MARKET BASED PRICE SYSTEM

Mr. Ken James (Sarnia-Lambton): Mr. Speaker, I rise in the House today to lend my support to the negotiations which are ongoing between the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Miss Carney) and the oil-producing provinces, which will achieve the deregulation of crude oil and natural gas. Allowing domestic wellhead prices to match world prices is in complete agreement with our Party's promise of deregulation.

● (1110)

In the present regime at world levels, the domestic price is static and unable to respond to market forces. This is the real problem. The administered pricing regime left to us by the previous Government is outdated, too complex, and discourages investment. The implementation of a market based oil and gas price system will provide benefits for my riding and for all of Canada. This will help in creating a positive environment which would allow us to strive to reach our unlimited economic potential.

Unemployment in all regions of the country has escalated to record highs, a problem with which all members of this House are concerned. In Sarnia we have witnessed a level of unemployment which is higher than any other time in history, a most distressing factor. I am encouraged by these negotiations, and I feel they will aid, in the long-term, the unemployed of our country.

I encourage the expeditious initiation of deregulation of feedstocks for the petrochemical industry, and a change to all the other elements of the existing system which impose such severe limits—

Mr. Speaker: I regret to advise the Hon. Member that his time has expired.