

S.O. 21

The choice is no longer between freer trade or maintaining the *status quo*, but between freer trade or closed borders.

My riding of Sarnia—Lambton, with its proximity to the U.S., is extremely interested in having our borders opened. The unemployment rate in my constituency is far above the national average, and the attraction of new businesses and industries is essential to our area.

Earlier this week I attended the opening of an American company which has chosen the Sarnia area as its first Canadian location. On many other occasions we have not been so fortunate. Recently another American firm was deterred from opening in our area because of the high tariffs and duties on goods entering the U.S.

We must make a determined effort to attract new businesses into our country. Opening our borders is very essential.

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THE ECONOMY

CONFIDENCE IN GOVERNMENT POLICIES

Mr. Bob Hicks (Scarborough East): Mr. Speaker, the results of a recent economic survey of 200 Scarborough business people have now been printed in the March edition of the *Scarborough Businessmen's Association Newsletter*. The results clearly show confidence in the federal Government's economic and fiscal policies, as well as in the forthcoming trade negotiations with the United States.

For example, with respect to the question of unemployment 57 per cent of the respondents stated that their outlook for the economy was positive; 60 per cent stated that interest rates would decrease; 51 per cent stated unemployment would decrease; 49 per cent stated that, as a whole, the impact of free trade will be positive; and 70 per cent said their company sales will increase—all positive responses clearly indicative of just what is happening with the Canadian economy under a Conservative Government.

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[Translation]

PROSTITUTION

ALLEGED DISCRIMINATION RESULTING FROM BILL C-49

Mrs. Lucie Pépin (Outremont): Mr. Speaker, today I would like to discuss some of the consequences of the new legislation on soliciting for the purpose of engaging in prostitution.

In Vancouver, about two-thirds of the arrests made involved prostitutes and only one-third their clients. We had a glaring example the other day in Vancouver of the difference between the treatment given prostitutes and the treatment given their clients.

A prostitute and a client were both arrested for soliciting, and both cases were heard by the same judge.

The prostitute was fined \$150 or five days in jail, and the client was acquitted and put on probation.

This evidence of discrimination proves that the *many* people who are opposed to this legislation are right. Mr. Speaker, once more I want to voice my objections against this unfair legislation which allows the police and judges to apply a double standard, depending on where their prejudice lies.

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[English]

INDUSTRY

B.C. TELEPHONE COMPANY—ANNOUNCEMENT OF LAY-OFFS

Ms. Margaret Mitchell (Vancouver East): Mr. Speaker, B. C. Telephone Company appears to be deliberately terminating jobs for operators, most of whom are women. After decimating jobs for women in Terrace, the company now plans to terminate some 70 jobs in Cranbrook. Since most women operators cannot leave their families to transfer elsewhere, this has resulted in a subtle tactic to reduce operators' jobs by the hundreds.

We do not agree with the Hon. Member for Kootenay East—Revelstoke (Mr. Graham) who has said that this is not a federal issue. We ask the Minister of Communications (Mr. Masse) to ask the CRTC immediately to hold special hearings in Cranbrook, with a one-year moratorium on B.C. Tel job transfers, until service and community implications of this move are established.

We again ask the Minister of Employment and Immigration (Miss MacDonald) to approve the request of TWU for a job maintenance technological change study into B.C. Tel actions.

We ask the Minister of Labour (Mr. McKnight) to investigate whether B.C. Tel is ignoring its responsibility under the Canada Labour Code—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Sixty seconds.

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AGRICULTURE

FREEZE PLACED ON GRAIN COMPANIES' STORAGE CHARGES

Mr. Lee Clark (Brandon—Souris): Mr. Speaker, with low commodity prices and increasingly high input costs, Canadian farmers are under an immense amount of financial pressure. Therefore I was very relieved to learn that the Canadian Grain Commission has frozen the amount that grain companies can charge farmers for storing, handling, and cleaning grain. This