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assistance by the federal Government in preparing for and obtaining new employment. Coke oven employees have already lost their jobs but nothing has been put in place.

Background information on that meeting of November 7 indicated that the federal Government said a CEIC industrial adjustment service agreement "may also be negotiated to assist those displaced workers presently employed at the Sysco coke ovens in preparing for and endeavouring to obtain alternate employment". Where is this assistance and where is this agreement? Why can the people of Sydney not rely on the promises of the Government?

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HISTORIC EVENTS

ESTONIA—ANNIVERSARY OF INDEPENDENCE

Mr. Andrew Witer (Parkdale—High Park): Mr. Speaker, 70 years ago on February 24, 1918, Estonia became a free and independent nation. The Soviet Union brought an end to that freedom in 1940 when Estonia and other Baltic states were forcibly annexed to the U.S.S.R. Estonia remains occupied by Soviet troops to this day.

● (1410)

Canada's position on the illegal occupation of the Baltic nations is clearly stated in the Prime Minister's (Mr. Mulroney) message to the Estonian community marking this seventieth anniversary of Estonian independence, and I quote:

Canada has never recognized in law this act by the U.S.S.R., nor have we any intention of doing so now.

The Estonian community in Canada invite all freedom-loving Canadians to join with them in commemorating this spirit of independence and in demonstrating their desire for liberty and justice in their homeland.

I call upon the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Clark) to use all available measures to maintain pressure on the Soviet Union until its illegal occupation of Estonia is ended and that country once again takes her rightful place among the free and independent nations of the world.

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TOURISM

EFFECT OF GASOLINE PRICE INCREASES

Mr. Fernand Robichaud (Westmorland—Kent): Mr. Speaker, the Conservatives have again shown little concern for Canada's tourism industry. In its last Budget the Government again increased the price of gasoline by one-cent a litre. Add this to the two-cent a litre hike in the excise tax announced in September, 1985, the one-cent a litre increase in January,

1987, and the one-cent a litre hike announced in February, 1987.

These increases, coupled with a 3 per cent hike in the sales tax since 1984, have made gasoline prices in Canada very uncompetitive with our largest tourism customer, the United States. Today the price of gasoline in Canada is over 50 per cent higher than in the U.S. This difference will certainly have a negative effect on the number of American visitors to Canada.

The ever-widening gap in the price of gasoline has prompted the Canadian Automobile Association to state that transportation related industries in Canada will be unable to compete with their American counterparts as we enter a free trade era.

For many regions in the country, tourism is one of the few industries with real growth potential. Tourism has enormous potential for job creation. Why is the Conservative Government attempting to choke off this industry?

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WINTER OLYMPIC GAMES

ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF ATHLETES FROM MISSION—PORT MOODY APPLAUDED

Mr. Gerry St. Germain (Mission—Port Moody): Mr. Speaker, on February 13, Mission—Port Moody sent three athletes to the Olympic Games in Calgary. It is with pride that I rise in this House today to congratulate Tracy Wilson and Rob McCall on winning the Bronze Medal for Canada in the pairs ice dance competition. I wish to note that Tracy Wilson is originally from Port Moody, British Columbia, where she spent many years developing the skills and abilities which have served her so well.

In addition, we were able to watch Eden Donatelli capture Canada's second Silver Medal, in the 500-metre short track speed skating competition last night. Eden is from Mission, British Columbia. As well, Kathy Gordon, from Mission, British Columbia, is preparing to compete in the 5,000-metre speed skating event.

Can you imagine, two medal winners and such a great contribution to the Olympics from Mission—Port Moody, British Columbia? Let this House and all Canadians congratulate Mission—Port Moody and these great Canadians.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: I just want to say to the Hon. Member for Mission—Port Moody (Mr. St. Germain) that, probably as well as anyone here, I can join with him in his congratulations.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!