

subsidies to hog producers were automatically and fully passed through to pork processors.

• (1810)

In conclusion, the mechanics in place under the free trade agreement proved to be of benefit to the industry and the Government of Canada.

The hog producers of this country have acknowledged this fact and are satisfied at the outcome of these *démarches*. It is our objective that the trading rules be respected. We will challenge any action that is unfair to Canada.

#### METRO TORONTO

**Hon. Alan Redway (Don Valley East):** Mr. Speaker, the intersection of Eglinton Avenue East and Don Mills Road in my constituency is considered to be the geographic centre of metropolitan Toronto.

In fact, there is more motor vehicle traffic at that intersection than at any other intersection in all of Canada. In addition, there are more jobs in that immediate area than in any other part of metropolitan Toronto with the exception of the downtown core.

There used to be more jobs because there has been a great change in the job situation in recent weeks and months. IBM on the northwest corner of the intersection is laying off some 10 per cent of its 2,000 employees. Imperial Oil on the northeast corner of that intersection is laying off employees as well. In the nearby East York, North York, O'Connor, Bermondsey industrial area one-third of all of the plants are now vacant.

That is just the tip of the iceberg because in May 1990 the unemployment rate in metropolitan Toronto was 4.7 per cent.

In January 1991 it was 7.3 per cent and today it is up to 10.1 per cent. The problem is not just in metropolitan Toronto as you well know, Mr. Speaker. The problem is right across our entire country, right across Canada. We have the highest unemployment rate of the 17 largest advanced industrial countries in the world. That is clearly unacceptable.

How are we going to turn that around? How are we going to get the economy moving again? Mr. Speaker, as you are aware, I have written to the Prime Minister and suggested five initiatives.

#### *Adjournment Debate*

One is the 5 per cent down payment. The other is the use of the Registered Retirement Savings Plans as down payments for home purchases. The third is getting the value of the Canadian dollar down. The fourth is a one-year reduction in personal income taxes, and fifth is a \$14 billion municipal public works program.

Last week the government announced it was moving on the 5 per cent down payment and that is great. Clearly we need more if we are going to get our country moving again. If we are going to increase the spending power of the people who are unemployed and out of work—we have over 10 per cent of the country in that category—we really need a public works program in the neighbourhood of about \$14 billion to be spent on municipal works such as transit, roads, sewers and environmental projects.

Where are we going to get that money? That is an awful lot of money. We have a debt and a deficit problem. According to the calculations that have been done by Professor Pierre Fortin of the University of Quebec in Montreal, if we could get the unemployment rate down from 10 per cent to 7 per cent we would generate some \$14 billion in savings on an annual basis.

That is based on the finance department's own calculations and figures. That is just by reducing the amount we pay out now for unemployment insurance and welfare and increasing the tax revenues.

We cannot wait for some medium or long term recovery in this country or a recovery in the United States. We need action now and we need it from the minister.

[*Translation*]

**Mr. André Plourde (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister for International Trade):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to take the opportunity to tell my good friend from Don Valley East how much significant ongoing aid the present government is giving to the Toronto region. The key role of the federal government in Bombardier's acquisition of de Havilland is an example.

Industry, Science and Technology delivers programs and provides services continuously. The regional office in downtown Toronto is responsible for delivering these programs. The Biotechnology Development Program is a good example of an initiative that directly benefits the Toronto region.