

trail. Unfortunately, the Government of Nova Scotia, aided and abetted by the federal Government, has done absolutely nothing.

We have called upon the Deputy Prime Minister (Mr. Mazankowski) to consider the possibility of providing moneys under the Federal-Nova Scotia Agreement on Highway Strengthening. Unfortunately, the Deputy Prime Minister (Mr. Mazankowski) and the Minister of Transportation in the Province of Nova Scotia have turned thumbs down to thousands of Canadians in that particular region of our country seeking assistance to build an extension to the Fleur de Lis Trail.

I call upon the federal Government to reverse this negative decision and to come through with some positive contributions in order to increase tourism opportunities in industrial Cape Breton.

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FORESTRY

IMPORTANCE TO ECONOMY OF CAPE BRETON—ASSISTANCE FOR LAND OWNERS ADVOCATED

Mr. Lawrence I. O'Neil (Cape Breton Highlands—Canso): Mr. Speaker, in my riding the forest industry is critical to our long-term economic health, to the maintenance of jobs, and to the creation of new employment. Forest management practices are therefore of utmost concern to me.

In Nova Scotia approximately 75 per cent of the land is owned privately. This contrasts with the situation in other provinces where most land is Crown owned.

To address the management needs of private wood-lot owners, the Government of Canada is funding forest group ventures. The province is also a sponsor. These are co-operatives formed by wood-lot owners. Land owners receive financial help to administer land management programs and to cover the cost of the silviculture work itself.

Today I want to recommend to the Minister of State for Forestry and Mines (Mr. Merrithew) that a group venture application to be submitted by more than 80 Antigonish County land owners receive early approval.

This group is aggressive and responsible and knows from first-hand experience the benefits of good forest management.

Since my election, four such ventures have been established in my riding. I look forward to announcing funding for this group as well.

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NARCOTICS

GOVERNMENT'S ACTION ON DRUG ABUSE—NATIONAL DRUG STRATEGY

Mr. Don Ravis (Saskatoon East): Mr. Speaker, our Government has clearly demonstrated its commitment to combating drug abuse in Canada, with a new five-year plan announced yesterday. I wish to congratulate the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Mr. Epp) on this comprehensive action plan.

For years Canadians have expressed concern over drug abuse. Unfortunately, they have not known where to get accurate information, or where to turn for support and assistance when dealing with drug related problems.

The federal Government has taken a leadership role in educating Canadians on this social menace with the Action on Drug Abuse plan. I know that these measures will give parents in Canada hope for a better future for their children.

The national PRIDE office located in my riding, a drug education organization comprised of parents, teachers and police, has witnessed drug abuse by children at the elementary school level.

● (1410)

I might add that last week it had its national convention in Saskatoon, attracting over 1,600 people from across Canada. PRIDE estimates that nearly 600 children have dropped out of school in Saskatoon, a majority of these cases a result of drug abuse.

Attacking drug abuse is not only important for the preservation of our society as a whole but it is important for those Canadians who may, like these children, become victims of drugs. It is for these children that I give my fullest support to the plan of the Minister of National Health and Welfare.

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ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

DEPLETION OF OZONE LAYER—PARLIAMENT URGED TO ABOLISH USE OF STYROFOAM CUPS

Mr. Bill Blaikie (Winnipeg—Birds Hill): Mr. Speaker, you will know, as other Members know, that growing attention is being paid to what is known as the depletion of the ozone layer.

Although I know that Governments are working in a co-ordinated fashion around the world to arrive at the policies and steps which need to be taken, one thing we could do right now would be to diminish the production and consumption of commodities and substances associated with the depletion of the ozone layer. One of those commodities is known as foam plastics or styrofoam.