

[Translation]

EMPLOYMENT

REQUEST FOR JOB CREATION PROGRAMS FOR ELDERLY

Mr. Gabriel Desjardins (Témiscamingue): Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to the attention of the House some of the findings of a recent survey of the population over 65.

Sixty-one per cent of senior citizens are physically fit and are not under any functional constraints. This means they do not require more than the usual health care and social services. In Quebec, 90 per cent of senior citizens stated they preferred to live on their own instead of moving to a senior citizens' home.

Eighty-five per cent of Quebecers think that governments and employers should take advantage of the knowledge and skills of senior citizens who are able to work, and 42 per cent think they should receive a salary in that case.

Mr. Speaker, I therefore invite governments to set aside more money in their budgets to promote the independence of our senior citizens and set up job creation programs that would take advantage of the experience and skills of senior citizens.

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● (1110)

[English]

THE PRIME MINISTER

Mr. John Nunziata (York South—Weston): Mr. Speaker, when is the king of patronage going to muster the courage to call a general election? It seems the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) is getting cold feet. He knows, given the opportunity, the people of Canada will reject free trade, reject the Conservative Party, and reject the Prime Minister.

Four years ago, during the 1984 election campaign, the Prime Minister made a lot of promises. Over the last four years we have seen a lot of broken promises. The people of Canada want an opportunity to turf out the Government. They know they were lied to and hoodwinked in that election campaign.

The Prime Minister does not have the courage to call an election because he has personality problems. As a headline said yesterday, "PC grass roots jittery about PM's credibility". This is what a Conservative riding president had to say about the Prime Minister:

Probably the most prevalent issue I hear is "I don't like Mulroney".

The people of Canada do not like Mulroney.

Some Hon. Members: Order!

Mr. Nunziata: They want to defeat him. Let us go to the polls.

S. O. 21

TRADE

CANADA-UNITED STATES FREE TRADE AGREEMENT—SUPPORT FROM THERMOS BOTTLE INDUSTRY

Mrs. Pauline Browes (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of the Environment): Mr. Speaker, I recently received a letter from a company in my riding which I would like to share with Members of the House of Commons:

"Dear Mrs. Browes

As one of the original Golden Mile industries, Canadian Thermos Products has been manufacturing in Scarborough since 1950.

In August, we will be producing for the United States market all of their Thermos glass vacuum bottles, coffee carafes and workers' lunch kits. The result will be a nearly 100 per cent increase in our Scarborough production.

More importantly, this will create at least 60 new permanent jobs in addition to the current 102.

Although Thermos is committed to moving production to Canada, Free Trade is nevertheless important to our company. The duty on our products entering the United States is 9 per cent, equal to or higher than that on competing products from Europe, Brazil and the Far East. The elimination of this duty under the Free Trade Agreement would lead to a larger market share for our Canadian-made products in the U.S., and consequently increased employment.

We applaud the reasoned approach that the Government of Canada has pursued in both the Free Trade Agreement and the GATT negotiations."

Mr. Speaker, this is good news for the people of Scarborough.

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TRANSPORT

EFFECT OF DROUGHT ON GRAIN TRANSPORTATION WORKERS

Mr. Ernie Epp (Thunder Bay—Nipigon): Mr. Speaker, the head of the grain handlers' union in Thunder Bay has called the grain scene there the worst since the 1960s. The drought, which will reduce farmers' income on the Prairies, threatens long lay-offs for grain handlers, railway workers, seafarers, and grain commission employees in Thunder Bay and other ports on the St. Lawrence Seaway.

Those involved in the grain trade in Thunder Bay and throughout the Seaway need action from the federal Government. I call on the Government to take the following actions: to ensure that a fair share of wheat exports moves through Thunder Bay and the Seaway; reduce the variable entrance requirements for persons laid off in the grain trade so they are eligible for unemployment insurance after ten weeks of employment; review operations under the Western Grain Transportation Act in order to make them more sensitive to the actual cost of moving grain to export ports.

Workers in the grain trade need action from the federal Government and I call on it to take that action now.