

## SPORTS

## 1994 COMMONWEALTH GAMES—CHOICE OF VICTORIA AS SITE

**Hon. Allan B. McKinnon (Victoria):** Mr. Speaker, I am sure all Members of the House were pleased to hear this morning that Canada, Victoria in particular, has been chosen as the site for the Commonwealth Games in 1994. This success has been achieved because of two factors: an incredible amount of work and effort put forward by volunteers, and, second, the co-operation of every level of government.

A volunteer committee self-started in Victoria, chaired by Mr. David Black and assisted by Rodger Banister and many others. They masterminded a brisk competition to be Canada's nominee for the Games site, and when Victoria was chosen the effort was doubled to win the second contest which finished this morning.

The Victoria committee sent representatives to all the voting countries of the Commonwealth and they were pleasantly surprised at the high regard in which Canada is held in those countries.

On behalf of Victoria I would like to thank all levels of government for their support, beginning with the municipalities neighbouring Victoria; the City Council and Mayor of Victoria; the Capital Region District; the Government of British Columbia; and the federal Government, in particular, the Minister of State for Fitness and Amateur Sport (Mr. Charest) and the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Clark). I am sure they had the support of all sides of the House in their actions, for a project such as this to be successful requires the support and co-operation of everyone.

Thanks again, and welcome to Victoria in 1994!

**Mr. Speaker:** I know all Hon. Members will agree with me that, given the substantive nature of the intervention by the Hon. Member for Victoria (Mr. McKinnon), it was appropriate to let him go on, and on, and on.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

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## TRANSPORT

## TRANSPORT ROUTE CANADA—SITUATION OF FORMER EMPLOYEES

**Mr. Bill Blaikie (Winnipeg—Birds Hill):** Mr. Speaker, there is something desperately wrong with a government policy that permits what happened recently to the employees of Transport Route Canada, formerly CN Route. There is something desperately wrong with a privatization policy that

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could put the employees of this company, which was privatized by permission of the Government, in a position where they have not only lost their jobs but their pensions are at risk, and there is a great deal of uncertainty with respect to their supplementary care benefits, unemployment insurance benefits, and union dues.

The independent trucking operators risk losing their rigs, some 75 of them in Winnipeg, I am told, because the company has no intention of paying them what it owes them. They will not be able to make their payments and they will go out of business for no other reason than the fact the Government decided to privatize something and to do it in such a way that sufficient guarantees were not built into the sale so that working men and women and their families were adequately protected.

I think this is shameful. We have been raising this in the House and we will be doing it again because this is a form of legalized theft. There is no other adequate description. More attention should be paid to it. It shows the moral bankruptcy of the Government because it has not even bothered to do anything about it.

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## TRADE

## CANADA-UNITED STATES FREE TRADE AGREEMENT—EFFECT ON WESTERN CANADA

**Mr. Gordon Taylor (Bow River):** Mr. Speaker, the Canada-U.S. Trade Agreement, when passed, will give western Canada an opportunity to be a full partner in Confederation.

Excessive rail freight rates to central Canada, which reach their apex in Alberta, have prevented our growth. The vast market to the nearby south will enable us to compete in new manufacturing industries that will bring employment and investment opportunities, and the competition may well reduce the excessive freight rates, something we have never been able to achieve to date.

In addition, our farmers, who have the capacity to produce vast quantities of foods, will find brand new markets that may well stabilize this important segment of our economy. And very important, our poor and aged will get the foods we buy from the U.S. cheaper and then they, too, will be able to enjoy the early vegetables and fruits which today they cannot afford.

We will lose no sovereignty and the buoyancy will bring even better social programs.

Let us pass the trade agreement and make Canada a greater country.