

S. O. 31

cross-border shopping trips to the U.S. This leaves small retailers in border towns with no reason for optimism.

In one town in Canada where retailers banded together and gave out gasoline discount tickets, there was an amazing turnaround in the entire retail sector of the town. Since the price of gasoline in Canada is recognized as the biggest single reason for shopping in the U.S., would the government not think it appropriate to drop the 8.5 cents a litre federal tax on gasoline in order to stabilize and improve the economy of our border towns and encourage Canadians to shop at home once again.

Why does the government not follow the lead of New Brunswick in its recent budget and lower the tax on gasoline to deter cross-border shopping and revive the commercial life of Canadian border towns.

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FOOD BANKS

Mr. Chris Axworthy (Saskatoon—Clark's Crossing): Mr. Speaker, in Saskatoon and across Canada, the level of food bank use is tragic and should be an embarrassment to the government.

Food bank use in Saskatoon is up 20 per cent over last year. That is 660 more families living in poverty in Saskatoon than last year. An estimated 55 per cent of these food bank users are children.

As a result of being poor, over one million of Canada's children will not be as healthy, not do as well in school and not live as long as more affluent children.

It is a mystery to me why the government does not take this information to heart and start investing in the future of Canadian children now, not at some date in the future when it decides it can afford it.

It is time to stop using the deficit as an excuse to keep Canadian children hungry.

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[*Translation*]

SEFARAD 92

Mrs. Sheila Finestone (Mount Royal): Mr. Speaker, Jews throughout the world remember! On March 31,

1492, Spain issued an order expelling all Jews from the kingdom. Political intolerance and religious fanaticism thus ended the most thriving Jewish community in Europe. Sephardic Judaism, which had been there from time immemorial, reached the peak of its development. It was a golden age if there ever was one, since the three great monotheistic religions and three cultures met, merged and grew together.

Thanks to the caliph's open-mindedness, Arabs, Jews, Christians and Moslems shared their sciences and their arts to give the western world the best. Exclusivity and rejection of difference brought it the worst: fire, exile and ashes.

From these ashes new communities were born, both in the Mediterranean basin and in this hemisphere, America. Holding the torch of their memory high, we celebrate this renaissance today with all communities in the world, especially the one in Madrid where King Carlos has finally officially revoked the shameful decree.

We thank him and say, "Welcome to Sefarad 92".

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[*English*]

VIMY RIDGE

Mr. Greg Thompson (Carleton—Charlotte): Mr. Speaker, this year marks the 75th anniversary of a remarkable Canadian success story, the Canadian Corps capture of Vimy Ridge.

There is scarcely a person in this country who has not heard of Canada's impressive victory on April 9, 1917 and how, with ingenuity and determination, our citizen soldiers accomplished in three days what the strongest armies of Europe could not accomplish in three years.

As the first wholly Canadian operation of the war, Vimy Ridge marked the coming of age of a country that less than 50 years previous was a colony of Great Britain.

On its 75th anniversary we salute the brave Canadian veterans on the battle of Vimy Ridge. May their many comrades rest in peace for which they fought.