

On election day in 1984 the Bank of Canada prime rate was 12.38 per cent, 11.84 the day the 1986 Budget was tabled, and it now stands at 10.11 per cent. The chartered banks' preferential rate was 13 per cent on election day, 13 per cent on Budget day, and 12 per cent today. Residential five-year mortgage loans were at 14.24 per cent when we were elected, 12 per cent on Budget day, and they are now down to 11.5 per cent.

For the first time in many months the deficit is going down. Mr. Speaker, all those indicators show that we are on the right track and that, as promised, the Mulroney Government is living up to its commitments.

\* \* \*

● (1110)

[English]

## YOUTH

### KATIMAVIK PROGRAM—SENATOR'S COMMENTS

**Hon. Chas. L. Caccia (Davenport):** Mr. Speaker, of all the youth who appeared at the hearings across Canada, it was the young people trained under the national youth program called Katimavik who made the strongest impression. These young men and women unquestionably displayed the fine qualities of leadership which are so needed in our country at this time. We studied the Katimavik program and came to the conclusion it was a positive and constructive force in Canadian society. The Government should establish a young Canadians' community service program, either by using Katimavik as a model or by giving it the means to expand. It was most unfortunate, therefore, that the Government decided to cancel the Katimavik program a week before the Senate youth report was tabled. I believe the Government should have waited a week for the report before making its announcement to cancel the Katimavik program.

Those are the words of the Progressive Conservative Senator Paul Yuzyk, Deputy Chairman of the special Senate Committee on Youth.

\* \* \*

## AIRPORTS

### CUSTOMS CLEARANCE DELAYS AT PEARSON INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

**Mr. Bill Attewell (Don Valley East):** Mr. Speaker, the service at Pearson International Airport must improve if we expect to increase the number of tourists and business people visiting Canada. A constituent of mine, Mr. Gordon Hinch of Wallingford Road, returned from an international trip on March 6 and it took him over an hour to clear customs. There were four international arrivals, yet only six people were working on Customs.

In other cities supervisors pitch in and help during peak periods when regular workers take breaks. However, when Mr.

S.O. 21

Hinch suggested to one supervisor that he help, he was ignored. At the second stage of Customs only one person was on duty to clear everyone.

Having to pay for luggage carts is another annoyance unique to Canada. It is clear these issues need to be resolved so that everyone visiting or returning to Canada will receive courteous, fast service.

\* \* \*

## EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

### CANADA-UNITED STATES DISCUSSIONS

**Ms. Pauline Jewett (New Westminster-Coquitlam):** Mr. Speaker, there has been more than one slap in the face in Washington recently. The poor old foreign minister, the Hon. Member for Yellowhead (Mr. Clark), was not even taken along. He had to admit yesterday that he did not know what questions came up in the Prime Minister's meetings with Members of Congress, specifically, whether the Canadian position on military aid to the Contras was given. The Minister's place was apparently taken by the Prime Minister's wife's executive assistant and a couple of people from his own Department. Why is the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) again systematically sidelining his Secretary of State for External Affairs? For that matter, why were other Ministers not there—the Minister of the Environment (Mr. McMillan), the Minister for International Trade (Mr. Kelleher), the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson)? It was a Mickey Mouse delegation if ever there was one—

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Ms. Jewett:**—and proves once again that the Prime Minister wants to be the bride at the wedding and the corpse at the funeral.

\* \* \*

## TRADE

### LUMBER EXPORTS TO UNITED STATES

**Mr. Keith Penner (Cochrane-Superior):** Mr. Speaker, scores of communities throughout northern Ontario today are deeply apprehensive about the get-tough attitude of the U.S. Congress and administration toward Canadian lumber imports. What we need, Sir, are assurances that this essential U.S. market for our lumber will be maintained. The question being asked throughout northern Ontario is this. If the U.S. is open to a policy of free trade, as the Government suggests, why then, as we approach those free trade talks, is it taking such a hard line on Canadian lumber imports?