

S. O. 21

## STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S. O. 21

[English]

## INDUSTRY

## HAMILTON FIRESTONE PLANT—OFFER TO PURCHASE

**Ms. Sheila Copps (Hamilton East):** Mr. Speaker, Hamilton is a lucky town. It is lucky for Liberal politicians and also lucky for hockey players, as Wayne Gretzky and Mario Lemieux found out only two days ago. I can say that they will do it again tonight and will blow the Russians out of the water.

At the same time that the Canadian team is trouncing the Russians at the Copps Coliseum, I ask the Government to look also at saving jobs for 1,300 workers in the same city of Hamilton. Firestone has received an offer from Cooper Tire Company in the United States. It is clear that it is a valid, bona fide offer.

The Minister should show some leadership in this area, as the Canadian hockey team has shown leadership, and go to Akron, convince Firestone to sell, and save 1,300 jobs for Hamilton workers who deserve them. Our hockey players deserve our support, so do our Firestone workers.

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## MARINE SAFETY

RETENTION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA LIGHTHOUSE KEEPERS  
ADVOCATED

**Mrs. Mary Collins (Capilano):** Mr. Speaker, the Canadian Coast Guard is currently examining the possibility of automating some of British Columbia's lighthouses. The Minister of Transport (Mr. Crosbie) has received a report recommending that ten of the 41 lighthouses in British Columbia be considered for unmanning.

I recognize the expertise of Doctor Paul Leblond who authored the report, and I realize that technological developments have lessened the need for permanent lighthouse keepers in some areas. Nevertheless, I have some very serious concerns about any proposals to automate lighthouse light stations on the West Coast.

Apart from their duties to maintain the light, its power supply and fog horn, light keepers perform a multitude of duties, including marine weather monitoring, and participation in search and rescue operations.

I am proud to say that a lighthouse keeper at Port Atkinson in my riding, Mr. Don Graham, has authored several major books documenting the role of light keepers on the West Coast.

Of equal importance to the duties performed by light keepers is the feeling of confidence that they inspire. Mariners know that behind the beacon of light there lies a capable and

courageous individual who will render assistance if need be, something which no machine can do.

I therefore urge the Minister of Transport, in considering whether or not to automate light stations, to examine not only the technological factors but the very important historical and human contributions made by British Columbia's keepers of the light.

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## EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

INDIA—DETENTION OF CANADIAN CITIZEN ON SUSPICION OF  
GUN SMUGGLING

**Mr. Ernie Epp (Thunder Bay—Nipigon):** Mr. Speaker, I rise to protest violation of the human rights of a Canadian Sikh being held by the Indian police. The interrogation of Daljit Singh Sekhon by Indian anti-terrorist forces spotlights the excesses to which even sister nations of the Commonwealth sink when they fight terrorism.

The 1985 Terrorist and Disruptive Activities (Preventive) Act gives police sweeping powers to detain people without charging them or bringing them to trial. Indian human rights groups have protested this Act which allows persons to be held without being charged for a year in India generally and for up to two years in the Punjab.

These groups have protested the way police interrogate persons under severe threats or worse, without any possibility of assistance from legal counsel.

I call on the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Clark) to intensify his efforts to protect the human rights of Mr. Sekhon. India's 1985 Terrorist and Disruptive Activities (Preventive) Act is clearly tyrannical. It is as unfair to Indian citizens as it is to Canadian citizens. Defence of the rights of Canadians will enable the Canadian Government to seek repeal of this Draconian measure by the Government of India.

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## RAILWAYS

## FATAL ACCIDENT AT SASKATOON RAIL CROSSING

**Mr. Don Ravis (Saskatoon East):** Mr. Speaker, I want to express my deep concern over the death of a fellow Saskatonian which occurred as a result of a railway-vehicle collision at the Sutherland crossing at Saskatoon last week.

It is my understanding that the Canadian Transport Commission has already identified this crossing as a location for upgrading, with the federal Government sharing 80 per cent of the cost and the remainder being shared by the City of Saskatoon and the railway.