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rationale behind this provision, I believe that there should be exceptions to the rule. One which I have in mind concerns allowing re-instatement in the RHOSP in the event that, through no fault of the prospective purchaser, the property transaction does not close.

As the many lawyers in the House will appreciate, properties often fail to be conveyed at closing because of some condition not being met. At this stage of the transaction, financing has already been arranged by the purchaser, including collapsing the RHOSP.

While the regulations governing RHOSPs provide that the owner of the collapsed plan has up to three years within which to purchase a home and claim the deduction on his income tax, someone who collapses a RHOSP but whose attempt to buy a property falls through is no longer eligible to make tax-free contributions to it and collect tax-free interest on the funds contained in the plan. Since this seems unconscionable to me, I would strongly urge the Minister of National Revenue (Mr. Bussières) to look into the possibility of allowing such unfortunate individuals as those referred to above to be re-instated in a RHOSP even if a reasonable administration fee has to be imposed.

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HEALTH

HAZARDS TO CHILDREN FROM LEADED GASOLINE

Mr. Bill Blaikie (Winnipeg-Birds Hill): Madam Speaker, as the New Democratic Party health critic, I would like to urge the Government to respond quickly and decisively to the demands of various groups concerned with the health of Canadian children that action be taken to speed up the leaded gasoline phase-down program. As advertisements taken out by these groups have stressed, there has been repeated scientific proof of the hazards to the health of children posed by environmental lead and of the severe neurological damage caused by high blood levels.

Since lead is particularly toxic to the brain and nervous system of the growing child, and since children ingest and inhale more of the lead in their environments because of their play habits, Government inaction on this pollution issue constitutes a continuing health risk to Canadian children.

Urban children are most at risk. Measurements taken in downtown Canadian cities show lead levels three to six times greater than average levels. While Canada was a world leader in the removal of lead from many indoor paints in the 1930s, it now lags behind the United States and most European countries in addressing the problem of pollution from leaded gasoline.

On March 11 the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Roberts) announced his plans to speed up the leaded gasoline phase-down program and he initiated a 60-day period for discussion and input before he reaches his final recommendation. I urge him to listen to those who are interested in the

health of Canadian children and not to those who may have an economic self-interest in the continued marketing of leaded gasoline.

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THE CONSTITUTION

ENTRENCHMENT OF PROPERTY RIGHTS

Mr. Bill Yurko (Edmonton East): Madam Speaker, I wish to advise that I categorically favour the entrenchment of property rights in the Constitution. Nevertheless, the reality is that property and civil rights are provincial constitutional matters. Property rights have been entrenched in the Alberta Bill of Rights since 1972 and they have not been difficult to live with.

The proposal of the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) for a one-day debate on the matter, agreed to by the Progressive Conservative caucus, is laudable, as the debate has gone on since the introduction of the Diefenbaker Bill of Rights. However, all should realize that the Prime Minister's proposal, if approved by seven Provinces having 50 per cent of the Canadian population, would be subject to the "notwithstanding" Clause as well as to the opting-out feature, by three Provinces. What would therefore be accomplished except a checkerboard of jurisdictional puzzles across the country?

● (1410)

Perhaps it would be more meaningful if the resolution proposed by the Prime Minister included two additional clauses—first, that property rights would not be subjected to the provincial "notwithstanding" section, and second, that Provinces would be permitted to opt-in to such a constitutional provision, instead of opting out, in their own good time, or when they elected Governments favouring such a constitutional amendment.

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METRIC CONVERSION

RESULTS OF POLL OPPOSING COMPULSORY IMPOSITION

Mr. Bill Domm (Peterborough): Madam Speaker, I am pleased to be able to release a poll commissioned by the CKO Radio network and carried out by the firm of Ron Rotenberg and Associates, a private polling company. This poll was conducted in Metro Toronto and confirms similar polls taken by Loblaw's, Dominion Stores, the Canadian Federation of Retail Grocers, and the Canadian Federation of Independent Business, which proves that the vast majority of Canadian people in all age brackets do not support compulsory metric. The results were as follows.

First of all, "Do you personally feel that the use of metric measurement, that is, litres, kilograms and kilometres, et cetera, should be voluntary, that is, left up to the individual to