

Perhaps the hon. member may want to share some of the information with me because quite frankly, as has been pointed out on many occasions, you cannot devalue your way to prosperity in this country. One has to compete in the international marketplace, the global marketplace. Many industries in fact are doing just that.

I think the merchandise trade balance surplus which is growing is a clear indication that Canadian companies are indeed competing.

The hon. member should know that the value of the Canadian dollar over the last 40 years was 92.6 cents. Today the dollar is in the 88-cent range, considerably below the 92.6-cent average which was the prevailing average over the 40-year period.

**Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry—Prescott—Russell):** Mr. Speaker, we are not talking about 40 years ago. We are talking about people who are losing their jobs today.

[*Translation*]

I would like to direct my supplementary to the Minister of State (Small Businesses). Eastern Ontario is being hard hit as a result of unemployment rates of up to 15 per cent in Hawkesbury, 16 per cent in Cornwall and similar rates in Pembroke and other parts of the region.

• (1500)

When will the minister announce a recovery program for Eastern Ontario which is suffering as a result of the policies of his government and his Minister of Finance, who refuse to listen?

[*English*]

**Hon. Tom Hockin (Minister of State (Small Businesses and Tourism)):** Mr. Speaker, the hon. member and I have discussed this at length over the past few months. He knows that we are preparing a program which will address eastern Ontario in particular.

One thing that he should notice is that he has agreed with me in the past that what is needed is a more

competitive environment in eastern Ontario. A lot of this has to do with training. A lot of this has to do with a more productive labour force, and that is part of the prosperity discussions and consultations that we are going to be beginning with shortly. I hope the hon. member will join in those discussions.

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## SPORT

**Mr. John Brewin (Victoria):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of State for Fitness and Amateur Sport.

This weekend in Victoria there was the national coaching seminar at which 151 coaches signed a petition expressing their deep concern with the removal of Abby Hoffman from her position and in particular the timing, which was four months before the winter Olympics and nine months before the summer Olympics. They are very concerned about the morale in the sports field leading up to these important international competitions.

Could the minister take this opportunity to assure them, athletes, trainers and the public in Canada that this government remains committed to high performance at the international level as a role model for Canadians, and as a bond for Canadian unity?

**Hon. Pierre H. Cadieux (Minister of State (Fitness and Amateur Sport) and Minister of State (Youth) and Deputy Leader of the Government in the House of Commons):** Mr. Speaker, as my hon. colleague knows, I was in Victoria also over the weekend and unfortunately I was not given a copy of the petition.

On the other hand, I was informed about the concerns with respect to high performance sports, which I addressed very specifically in a speech I gave to Sports Forum II the night before I left for Victoria and at which my hon. friend was present. The Government of Canada is still committed to high performance sport.