

cy response train which goes out to deal with derailments and other emergency situations. Under CN directives an auxiliary unit must be ready to leave its site within one hour. However, by removing the auxiliary unit in Gillam, the nearest auxiliary unit is something like 48 hours away. In other words, if there is a derailment on the major line—the only line into Churchill, Manitoba—during the grain season, it is quite possible that that line could be shut down for over a week.

The Government was notified on October 11 that this was a possibility, that CN was contemplating this move, and yet it did nothing. At the very time when we are looking for a method to ensure that grain can leave the country, all three ports of exit are in a situation in which they can be closed down. I think it is time that the Government acted seriously with CN, the Seaway, and all companies involved in exporting our grain to make sure that we have the ability to export our grain in the fastest and most efficient manner.

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● (1410)

CANADA COUNCIL

FUNDING OF CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS

Mr. Jim Edwards (Edmonton South): Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss a matter of grave importance to our cultural community. The new funding method of the Canada Council, which was adopted earlier this year, threatens the Cultural independence of our museums and galleries.

[*Translation*]

For more than twenty years, those institutions who have proven themselves have been receiving annual grants from the Canada Council. There is now a new four-part application process to obtain financial assistance. Therefore, from now on, the Canada Council will be the one to decide what exhibitions the public should see.

[*English*]

The effect of this new method is devastating. The museum community has found it to be more costly, and more difficult to plan its budgets and programs. For example, the Edmonton Art Gallery has already been forced to postpone many important exhibits because of Canada Council's unexplained refusal to fund them. The Gallery will incur a deficit of up to \$130,000 in 1985, in large part as a direct result of Canada Council's new funding policy for major museums.

The Edmonton Art Gallery is not alone. The future remains bleak for all museums in Canada because the Council has recently stated that it will not review its new policy for two years.

I ask the House, should an appointed body such as the Canada Council have such discretionary power over the cultural make-up of our museums and galleries? It should not be up to the Canada Council to decide what exhibition is or is not worthy of funding. I say that our local art and museum patrons should make this decision.

S.O. 22

THE ECONOMY

PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED BUSINESSES

Mr. Don Ravis (Saskatoon East): Mr. Speaker, I am prompted to rise in the House today by more good news on the economic front. A recent Gallup poll commissioned by the Canadian Manufacturers' Association proves that Canadians share the Government's conviction that the private sector is the key to economic recovery and sustained growth.

The poll results show that since 1982 the number of Canadians who believe that business is the key player in an improved economy has tripled. In addition, the number of Canadians who believe that only Government can provide the solution to economic problems has dropped by 20 per cent in the same three years.

Evidently, Canadians support our Government's policy of providing encouragement and incentives to small and medium-sized businesses. There is good reason for that support. Since September, 1984, 333,000 new jobs have been created in Canada. Unemployment is down by 1.3 per cent since the 1984 election. The response of small and medium sized businesses to the Challenge '85 program was overwhelming. Working together with provincial and federal Governments, these businesses created 100,000 jobs for Canadian students, 14,000 more than 1984's summer program.

The May 23, 1985, Budget contained many measures designed to encourage small and medium businesses. Those measures were greeted enthusiastically by the private sector then, and now Canadians across the country believe that 100,000 smaller businesses hold the key to our future prosperity.

Smaller businesses are the key to Canada's economic prosperity. Together, they and our Government will ensure our future security.

Mr. Speaker: I must advise the Hon. Member that his time has expired.

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NATIONAL ENERGY BOARD

NECESSITY TO PROTECT SECURITY OF NATURAL GAS SUPPLIES

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops-Shuswap): Mr. Speaker, last week in Calgary, Douglas Fenton, president of Alberta and Southern Gas Co. Ltd., told the National Energy Board that it should abolish the requirement that Canadian natural gas consumers should be guaranteed a 25-year supply before exports can occur. He believes that Canada should increase its exports substantially, forget the guarantees of security to Canadian consumers, and provide unlimited exports of natural gas to the United States market.

It seems strange that a Canadian company would advocate unlimited sales to the United States and have little regard for the security of Canadian consumers. However, what the president of Alberta and Southern Gas Co. did not make public at