

S. O. 31

[Translation]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): It being one o'clock, I do now leave the chair until 2 o'clock this day.

The House took recess at 1 p.m.

AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 2 p.m.

STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S. O. 31

[English]

HEART MONTH

Mrs. Barbara Sparrow (Calgary Southwest): Mr. Speaker, this week Canadians celebrate Valentine's Day. We remember our loved ones with hearts and flowers, but February is heart month when thousands of volunteers of the Heart and Stroke Foundation work with the public to increase awareness and request assistance to combat Canada's number one killer, heart disease.

Progress against this quiet but devastating disease is being made. Over all, the death rate for Canadians under 65 has dropped by 36 per cent. However, health and welfare reports that cardiovascular disease costs our economy almost \$17 billion every year.

Much work still needs to be done and when a volunteer for the Heart and Stroke Foundation comes to your door this month please have a heart. Please help overcome this number one heart killer.

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NEW FLYER INDUSTRIES

Mr. Bill Blaikie (Winnipeg Transcona): Mr. Speaker, New Flyer Industries, a bus manufacturer in my riding, is waiting to find out if it will receive a \$12 million contract to supply 60 buses to Las Vegas Transit.

Despite a very competitive bid, the third lowest and the lowest one which meets all the needs of Las Vegas Transit, the city of Las Vegas may not award New Flyer the contract simply because it is not an American company.

New Flyer has complied with UMPTA, the American's watchdog, by honouring all of the requirements of "buy American". One of these is that 60 per cent of the content of the vehicle being sold must originate in the United States. New Flyer conforms to this rule to be eligible to compete in the U.S. market. In fact it imports \$17 million more from Americans than it exports to them.

What is more frustrating is that to meet another requirement of "buy American" it has had to establish a manufacturing depot in the U.S. for final assembly of vehicles. New Flyer has three facilities in the U.S. to remain eligible to compete in the U.S. market.

But what is the possible return on this investment when the U.S. simply refuses to buy Canadian? That is not free trade; it is extortion. The Canadian government should wake up and smell the coffee.

The Americans are always looking after their interests. Perhaps we should do the same for a change and abrogate the FTA or at least have the Americans respect the spirit of the free trade agreement while it is in place.

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GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

Mr. Joe McGuire (Egmont): Mr. Speaker, Canadian farmers are being asked to be part of a solution even though they are not part of the problem.

Our grain and oilseeds producers are being rendered paupers by a subsidy war between the U.S. and Europe.

Our supply management producers are being asked to give up a lifetime of effort and investment to satisfy American demands to enter our markets, this demand from a country which has barred the world's dairy products from access to its market since 1954. Again we dance while the U.S. calls the tune.

Canada has developed a system in dairy which is the envy of the world. A recent American farm publication has stated: "threatened as it might be, the Canadian dairy industry continues to earn the respect and envy of dairymen in the U.S. and elsewhere".