

Groups such as the Canadian Renewable Fuel Association have pointed out that vehicle conversion to other forms of fuel, such as natural gas, propane and ethanol are clean and financially viable alternatives to gasolines.

The U.S. Congress is currently debating amendments to the Clean Air Act which addresses the issue of emission levels. This act will implement sweeping environmental standards far exceeding anything that we have in Canada. This government must stop posturing on environmental issues and start to encourage the use of cleaner fuels in the millions of vehicles on the road in Canada.

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[Translation]

INFANT MORTALITY

Mr. Ricardo Lopez (Châteauguay): While watching television yesterday, Mr. Speaker, I heard the distressing news that Canada ranked first among all developed countries as far as the rate of infant mortality is concerned. This is disturbing news indeed when we realize that our young people are the real wealth of this country. I wonder what the Government is prepared to do to remedy this afflicting situation.

Mr. Speaker, the sad truth is that infant mortality is the highest among the poorest families. I have already mentioned in the House the need for the government to grant financial support to the poorer families, including a salary to homemakers. Mr. Speaker, our government should keep this in mind as it is preparing its forthcoming budget.

I urge again the government to seriously consider the possibility of granting a salary to homemakers, especially in the case of the poorest families.

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[English]

CANADIAN ARMED FORCES

Mr. Brian L. Gardiner (Prince George—Bulkley Valley): Mr. Speaker, in the Williams Lake area of B.C. the military's Nordic Warrior exercises ended this week. These exercises involved some 1,600 troops, 350 army vehicles and low flying military jets and helicopters.

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• (1110)

Upon the departure of the troops their garbage and waste was deposited in the Williams Lake city dump. The waste included such items as boxes of T-bone steaks, prime smoked beef and canned foods, all in extremely large quantities; batteries and equipment still in its plastic wrappers. There were truckloads, according to the MLA for the area, Mr. Zirnheld.

The Minister of National Defence should launch an immediate inquiry into this gross waste of food and equipment; apologize to the people of Williams Lake in British Columbia, and the people of Canada.

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[Translation]

OFFICIAL LANGUAGES ACT

Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa—Vanier): On April 11, 1989, Mr. Speaker, the President of Treasury Board promised the House that the government would table before the end of 1989 the regulations concerning the Official Languages Act. Nineteen months have elapsed since Bill C-72, an Act respecting the status and use of official languages in Canada, was adopted on July 7, 1988, and over nine months have elapsed since the President of Treasury Board promised the House to table the said regulations.

Including its public consultations and the study by the Standing Joint Committee on Official Languages, the government will have needed three years before taking action.

I am flabbergasted by this Tory Government's irresponsibility in this area. Having failed to deliver, the President should at least try to save face by tabling immediately and in its entirety the draft regulations with respect to the Official Languages Act, so that Canadians may know what direction where the government stands as far as its official languages policy is concerned.

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[English]

THE ECONOMY

Mr. Brian O'Kurley (Elk Island): Mr. Speaker, one of the most important issues in our great nation today is the state of the Canadian economy. Despite difficult international economic circumstances, Canada has placed second only to Japan in terms of economic growth among industrialized nations of the world.