

Although the newspaper headlines this morning say that the Prime Minister is coming back empty-handed because he has not concluded an acid rain agreement with President Bush, his visit to Boston, where he received a very important prize, made Americans aware and they are surely the ones who will put pressure on the U.S. Congress so that one day we will be able to have an acid rain agreement.

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[English]

ENERGY

PRIVATIZATION OF SASKATCHEWAN POWER CORPORATION

Mr. Ray Funk (Prince Albert—Churchill River): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise in this House to pay tribute to the historic battle which the people of Saskatchewan are putting up to save a cherished part of their heritage, the Saskatchewan Power Corporation. I predict that in the same way that the medicare battle of 1962 marked a turning point in the evolution of social policy in Canada, so to the fight to save Sask Power will be a turning point in bringing an end to right-wing economics in this country.

By a margin of 58 per cent to 27 per cent, the people of Saskatchewan are saying no to the pillage of public assets by the Tories and big business. By a margin of 67 per cent to 22 per cent, they are saying no to the privatization of Sask Power.

The ordinary people of this country have had enough, and once again, the people of Saskatchewan are showing the way for a brighter future for everybody, not just the rich and powerful. I am sure I speak for a vast majority of Canadians when I say to the folks back home, congratulations, thank you and good luck.

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NATIONAL REVENUE

COLLECTIVE AGREEMENT RESPECTING MILEAGE FOR CUSTOMS OFFICIALS

Mr. Blaine A. Thacker (Lethbridge): Mr. Speaker, I wish to bring to the attention of the Minister of National Revenue (Mr. Jelinek) that part of the collective agreement which pays mileage to customs officials who work in Coutts, Alberta, but choose to live anywhere beyond 16 kilometres up to a hundred kilometres away. This adversely affects the fine town of Coutts which is the fourth-busiest port of entry into Canada. The elected council and the vast majority of my constituents feel that

this is unfair to Coutts and in general is a waste of taxpayers' money. I ask the Minister to negotiate an end to this part of the collective agreement.

[Translation]

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

SITUATION IN CITY OF MONTREAL

Mr. Jean-Claude Malépart (Laurier—Sainte-Marie): Mr. Speaker, first, the Conservative Government's decision on Monday not to locate the Space Agency in Montreal proves beyond any doubt that the Mayor of Montreal, Jean Doré, was had by the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney), and he was not the first one.

Second, this decision proves beyond any doubt that our two Ministers responsible for the Montreal area, the Minister of Labour (Mr. Corbeil) and the Secretary of State of Canada (Mr. Weiner), have no clout in the Conservative Cabinet when it comes to defending Montreal's interests.

In addition, the three new Conservative superstars, the Hon. Members for Rosemont, Outremont and Bourassa (Mr. Tremblay, Mr. Hogue and Mrs. Gibeau), are no better than the Desrosiers and Gravels when it comes to delivering the goods.

Mr. Speaker, there is another issue where Montreal is being had, and that is rail transport—VIA Rail. In conclusion, we can say that under Tory rule, not only has Montreal lost the title of Canada's metropolis, but it has now become a suburb of Longueuil!

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[English]

THE ECONOMY

DEFICIT REDUCTION

Mrs. Barbara Sparrow (Calgary Southwest): Mr. Speaker, no one likes high interest rates, especially the people of Alberta, and I am here to fight for them. High interest rates are hurting all of western Canada.

Some people have called for different rates for different regions. That would cause absolute chaos in Canada. Money would flow from the low to the high rate areas and totally distort the market-place.

Deficit debt reduction is a must and that is what this Government is doing. Without the cuts and tax increases contained in the Budget, Canada's opportunities to reduce high interest rates would have been curtailed. The Bank of Canada rate has dropped slightly. Long-term mortgage rates have dropped a little. Central Canada's economy is cooling. Working together today to