

## S. O. 31

[Translation]

## TRANSPORT

**Mr. Guy Saint-Julien (Abitibi):** Mr. Speaker, Thursday evening and all day Saturday I was in Louvicourt where I met representatives of the independent truckers of Abitibi—Témiscamingue: Rémi Veillette, from Amos; Michel Roy, from Val d'Or; Raymond Landry, from Taschereau; and the truckers themselves.

I was told about their demands, which mainly concern illegal cabotage; increasing cost per mile; the attitude of the sawmills who should consider local truckers first before hiring foreign truckers; excessively high logbook fines; and better monitoring of trucks at the border and on highways.

They also want the provincial government to set up a task force immediately to ensure their demands are taken seriously.

Saturday morning, after talks with the representatives and for the sake of the people and workers of Abitibi, the truckers decided to lift the Louvicourt roadblock.

Mr. Speaker, I think everyone should realize what an important role the trucking industry plays in our economy.

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• (1410)

[English]

## RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

**Mrs. Christine Stewart (Northumberland):** Mr. Speaker, it is with pleasure we acknowledge the presence in Canada of UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar and of our government taking this opportunity to sign the Convention on the Rights of the Child. However, despite the fact that Canada signed the convention today, we have yet to ratify this important document.

In September, Canada will be co-hosting the World Summit for Children, the first summit ever to focus exclusively on children. The need is urgent. In the decade ahead, more than one 100 million children will die from common illnesses which can be inexpensively treated or prevented. As well, here at home, we have over 1 million children living in poverty, the second

highest rate of child poverty in the western world. With this record, ratification of the convention must occur quickly.

The World Summit for Children will highlight the Convention on the Rights of the Child, a standard by which all civilized nations will be judged. Canada must set the example at the summit. But how will Canada convince other nations to ratify a document that we are not prepared to ratify ourselves? Our children and the children around the world cannot wait. Our future depends on how we provide for our children today.

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## THE ECONOMY

**Mr. Ken James (Sarnia—Lambton):** Mr. Speaker, we have made noticeable progress in restraining government spending. In fact, expenditure restraint has accounted for some 70 per cent of our deficit reduction efforts.

However, in tough economic times, we cannot afford to become complacent. We must continue our commitment to fiscal responsibility and good management.

I believe that the list of management initiatives announced December 15 by the President of the Treasury Board were steps in the right direction.

For example, one initiative called for an immediate 20 per cent reduction in the number of international trips made by the public sector.

Yet, I wonder whether we might go a little further and take an extra step. Might the government now consider extending a restriction to international travel expenses, not simply to the frequency of these trips?

It is my feeling that a proposal of this nature would demonstrate to all Canadians that good management and spending restraint continue to be top priorities of this government.

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## ROMANIA

**Mr. Svend J. Robinson (Burnaby—Kingsway):** Mr. Speaker, last week, I returned from a visit to Romania as a member of a parliamentary delegation observing the first real election in that country in over 40 years