

important and comprehensive recommendations of the copyright committee in it. Canada's creative people deserve no less.

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THE ECONOMY

JAPANESE BUSINESS GROUP'S FINDINGS

Mrs. Mary Collins (Capilano): Mr. Speaker, there is in Canada today an improved environment for foreign investment and a strong and co-operative spirit between federal and provincial Governments to encourage such investment. There is an improved labour relations climate. There is an increased emphasis on high technology industries. Are these claims from a Tory election handbook? No, that report card comes from across the Pacific, from the report released yesterday by the highly prestigious Keidanren, Japan's federation of economic organizations, following their 10-day trip to Canada last November when they visited many businesses and Governments across the country.

It has been 10 years since that group previously came to Canada. As a result of their recent visit, Mission Leader Kanao said they have found a new Canada. He predicted that with such improvements in economic and investment conditions there should be an increase of shipments of manufactured goods to Japan, more high technology joint ventures between companies of the two countries, and greater Japanese investment, particularly in Canadian manufacturing. We are honoured that those who have come to Canada with a clear view so quickly appreciate the opportunities available.

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ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

HAMILTON HARBOUR POLLUTION

Ms. Sheila Copps (Hamilton East): Mr. Speaker, once again we see the City of Hamilton shafted by the Conservative Government. Can you imagine, Windermere Basin, part of the infamous Hamilton Harbour, which has been identified as one of the most polluted bodies of water in the Great Lakes, contains levels of hazardous PCBs up to 68 times what is considered safe.

The city, regional and provincial Governments are all prepared to commit millions of dollars for the clean-up, and the Minister of the Environment (Mr. McMillan) comes to Hamilton last week and says it is not a federal responsibility. The federal Government has the responsibility to follow up on the International Joint Commission's recommendations to clean up the Great Lakes. By ignoring this desperate situation in Hamilton Harbour he is forcing the people of Hamilton and the Province of Ontario to continue to drink water from Lake

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Ontario which is unsafe. I call on the Minister, if he is not afraid of the truth, to tell us why he held a private meeting with two Conservative Members of Parliament and ignored the Member of Parliament for Hamilton East in whose riding the Windermere Basin is found.

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THE ECONOMY

ECONOMIC GROWTH

Mr. John Reimer (Kitchener): Mr. Speaker, Canada's economic indicators are looking better with each passing day. On the way up are housing and small business starts, building permits, consumer spending, international tourism, foreign investment, and the value of the Canadian dollar. On the way down are the Bank of Canada rate, the prime lending rate and mortgage rates.

Some of the indicators are nothing short of remarkable. Six-month mortgages are now available at 7.5 per cent, a rate unheard of since the 1960s and a fraction of the 21 per cent and 22 per cent being charged just five or six years ago. Clearly the foresighted actions of the Government deserve some of the credit. Initiatives such as the dismantling of the NEP and FIRA and the establishment of Investment Canada, together with deficit reduction and a spending control policy, have all added up to fiscal sanity and economic growth. We cannot stop now. We must do all we can to ensure that this welcome trend continues and that all regions of Canada benefit.

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ENERGY

DEREGULATION OF NATURAL GAS INDUSTRY—EFFECT ON CONSUMERS

Mr. Ian Waddell (Vancouver—Kingsway): Mr. Speaker, when Canada's Energy Ministers meet this Friday they should look at the Conservative Government's bungling attempts to deregulate the natural gas industry. Canadians will have the dubious pleasure of paying more for their own resources at home than will American consumers of exported Canadian gas.

Beginning February 9, the Manitoba Public Utilities Board will try to find out why Inter-City Gas Corporation expects residential consumers in Manitoba to foot the bill, \$60 million a year, for its contract to buy gas from TransCanada Pipe-Lines for \$3 per thousand cubic feet. At the same time, TCPL is selling gas in Houston, Texas, for \$2.55 per thousand cubic feet.