

S.O. 21

According to Government estimates, Mr. Speaker, this project will cost \$110 million. The Minister said he thought the least that could be done would be to reach a tripartite shared-cost agreement, which means that the federal Government is prepared to invest a minimum of \$36 million.

However, our Minister of Environment acknowledges that the Government of Quebec has to be the key promoter of such an endeavour. Therefore I would urge the Quebec Minister of Environment to expedite negotiations with Noranda so as to get the project under way as soon as possible, for it has long been a major topic of conversation in the region, and it would certainly contribute to improve the quality of life of local residents.

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[English]

AGRICULTURE

DIESEL FUEL PRICES IN UPPER OTTAWA VALLEY

Mr. Len Hopkins (Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke): Mr. Speaker, the failure of the Arab led OPEC consortium to agree on production quotas has caused the price of oil to fall by 60 per cent in the last three months. Yet farmers in the Upper Ottawa Valley who will be on the land very soon are not paying lower prices.

As diesel fuel costs form a significant portion of a farmer's fixed costs, I find the present state of affairs grossly unfair and indicative of the Government's continuing insensitivity to the plight of the farmer. I call upon the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Miss Carney) to initiate, on an urgent basis, a full and complete inquiry into diesel fuel prices in the Upper Ottawa Valley.

The Minister's own Department of Energy has informed me that diesel fuel prices have dropped five cents per litre in the Kingston area and two cents per litre in Montreal. Yet in the Upper Ottawa Valley prices have not dropped at all. This is an injustice to the farm community and to the forest industry. It is a deplorable situation and needs immediate attention. The Minister says she will not interfere with private enterprise. This is proof that she is not interfering with her friends who have oil interests.

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[Translation]

THE ECONOMY

POSITIVE EFFECTS FROM BANK RATE REDUCTION

Mr. Charles-Eugène Marin (Gaspé): Mr. Speaker, Canadians, Quebecers and people in the Gaspé feel confident once

again, since the good news that is coming in practically every day augurs well for the future.

Yesterday, the Bank of Canada announced a further reduction in the bank rate. Successive reductions within the last few weeks have had a positive impact on all sectors of our economy.

According to Statistics Canada, sales reached \$11.2 billion in February 1986, an increase of 14.1 per cent over September 1984, and 9.7 per cent over February 1985.

In Quebec, the figures are almost identical: 14.2 per cent compared with September 1984, and 9.2 per cent compared with February 1985.

Mr. Speaker, this is thanks to the sound and effective policies of our Government.

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[English]

YOUTH

FEDERAL EMPLOYMENT FUNDING

Mr. Rod Murphy (Churchill): Mr. Speaker, this Conservative Government has turned its back on the unemployed and student youth. The total funding for Summer Employment Experience Development has been reduced from \$163 million in 1985 to \$127 million in 1986. Some of this money has already been siphoned off to be used only for Expo '86.

What is the result? In my riding of Churchill, despite the fact that youth unemployment remains high and the demand for youth employment programs remains the same, the federal Government has reduced its contribution to the SEED Program from over \$700,000 to \$409,000. This money is earmarked for municipal, public, and private sector job creation where wage subsidies are required. The Government must act now to provide funds for youth, at least meeting and matching last year's contribution, even if it is not willing to meet the real needs of unemployed youth.

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● (1110)

TRADE

CANADA-UNITED STATES NEGOTIATIONS—IMPORTANCE TO SARNIA-LAMBTON

Mr. Ken James (Sarnia—Lambton): Mr. Speaker, the Canadian Government, in co-operation with the American Government, has until next Tuesday to convince the Senate Finance Committee in the U.S. to agree to the positiveness of bilateral trade negotiations. Enhanced trade with the U.S. is no longer an option for the Canadian economy but a necessity.