

*Interparliamentary Delegation Report*

[Translation]

REQUEST FOR EXPLANATION CONCERNING SECTION II OF GATT

**Mr. Alain Tardif (Richmond—Wolfe):** Mr. Speaker, first of all, the Parliamentary Secretary did not answer the question. It is simply this: Will Section 11 of GATT be included in the Agreement or will there will be a reference to this Section?

Furthermore, Mr. Speaker, in recent weeks farmers have repeatedly accused this Government of not telling the truth. Instead of constantly making excuses, why doesn't the Government make an effort to prove it is telling the truth?

**Mr. Speaker:** the Hon. Member is of course asking a very serious question. I also think the Chair has allowed him a very substantial preamble. The Parliamentary Secretary.

[English]

**Mr. John McDermid (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister for International Trade):** Mr. Speaker, the accusation that the Government had not been telling the truth on this stems from the statement by the farmers' union that the Government said that agriculture would never be on the table. The Government never said that.

Right from the beginning there were some very important agricultural issues which had to be negotiated which have been very good for Canadian farmers. The Standing Committee has heard all kinds of testimony to that effect.

In response to the Member's other question, this agreement operates under the guidelines of the GATT. We negotiated the agreement under Section 24 of the GATT. GATT rules still apply. We are still a member of the GATT as is the United States.

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## CANADA PENSION PLAN

## SITUATION OF SELF-EMPLOYED PERSONS

**Mr. Jack Scowen (Mackenzie):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. Self-employed people who pay into CPP do not make any money in some years and, therefore, cannot contribute to CPP in those years.

Would the Minister explain what happens to those individuals' accounts when this happens? Has the Department considered allowing these individuals to contribute in poor years?

**Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of National Health and Welfare):** Mr. Speaker, there will obviously be an effect on the amount of pension benefits received at the time of retirement by Canadians who are contributing to the Canada Pension Plan whose earnings fluctuate from one year to the next, whether they take early retirement at age 60 to 65 or wait until the age of 70.

The plan provides that 15 per cent of the years of lowest contribution are dropped for purposes of calculation. This does help to remove some of the years of lowest earnings. It increases the pension benefits for those individuals.

## ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

## INTERPARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION

## TABLING OF REPORT OF COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION, CANADIAN BRANCH

**Hon. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore):** Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 101 I have the honour to present to the House, in both official languages, a report of the delegation of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, Canadian Branch, which visited Jamaica from November 8 to November 15, 1987.

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[Translation]

## FINANCE AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

## PRESENTATION OF THIRTEENTH REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

**Hon. Bob Layton (Lachine):** Mr. Speaker, I have the honour of tabling, in both official languages, the Thirteenth Report of the Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs relating to Bill C-64.

[Editor's note: For above report, see today's Votes and Proceedings.]

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● (1210)

[English]

## PETITIONS

## TRANSPORT OF PLUTONIUM OVER NORTHERN CANADA

**Ms. Audrey McLaughlin (Yukon):** Mr. Speaker, I have the honour and duty to present petitions from residents of Yukon Territory who wish to express their deep concern about the proposed plutonium overflights over northern Canada. In view of both the environmental hazard and the risk of hijacking where this plutonium could fall into hands for military use, these petitioners ask Parliament to say no to the transport of plutonium over northern Canada.