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Assessments must apply to projects, to impacts, to domestic policy and to our international policy and projects as well.

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SOFTWOOD LUMBER INDUSTRY

Mr. Len Hopkins (Renfrew—Nipissing—Pembroke): Madam Speaker, last week, the Secretary of State for External Affairs said sarcastically and arrogantly that “overstating a case does not make up for not having one”. He was referring to opposition requests for action in cancelling the Memorandum of Understanding with regard to the softwood lumber industry in Canada.

When is this government going to realize that its policies are destroying what was once a healthy lumber industry?

The Memorandum of Understanding which slaps a 15 per cent export tax on softwood lumber, coupled with current interest rates and the artificially high Canadian dollar, has forced the closure of lumber mills throughout the province of Ontario. In a riding such as mine, where the lumber industry is a major employer, these job losses amount to a disaster.

I urge the government to take action now, before more lumber mills are closed and more people are forced into unemployment by the silly policy of this government.

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OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

Mr. Bruce Halliday (Oxford): Madam Speaker, I am grateful to have this opportunity, coming as it does during Canadian Occupational Health and Safety Week, to recognize the role of Health and Welfare Canada in maintaining and improving the health and safety of federal government employees.

The department’s responsibilities are carried out primarily through the Public Service Health Program, which provides high quality and comprehensive occupational and environmental health services to client groups. These services consist of health protection and promotion activities designed to support and enhance the physical, mental and social well-being of clients.

Current priorities of the Public Service Health Program include measures to increase the response capacity to post-trauma stress disorder resulting from serious accidents and incidents in the workplace, continuation of the hepatitis B vaccination program for high-risk groups and continued emphasis on investigating complaints about indoor air quality.

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ATLANTIC FISHERIES ADJUSTMENT PROGRAM

Mr. Fred J. Mifflin (Bonavista—Trinity—Conception): Madam Speaker, I have reviewed the Atlantic Fisheries Adjustment Program in detail and I am very concerned.

In general, I find that it contains many references to ongoing consultation and continuing discussions with respect to diplomatic talks on overfishing, the provision of assistance to individuals and communities, and the disbursement of assistance for diversification projects. What it does not contain are definite provisions for guaranteeing the long-term future of the fisheries or clearly defined action to assist individuals and communities.

A specific concern I and many of my colleagues have is that the inshore fishery in Newfoundland is particularly dismal and unproductive this spring. People who have been at it for years have never seen it so bad.

The Atlantic Fisheries Adjustment Program ignores those fishermen and plant workers who make their living from the inshore sector and the communities in which they live. They are understandably and genuinely worked up, while the situation is ignored by the government. They want the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans to address this problem now.

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LIBERAL LEADERSHIP

Mr. Ken Atkinson (St. Catharines): Jean Chrétien, where do you stand on the Meech Lake Accord?

Last week, Mr. Chrétien issued a written statement saying: “I, therefore, will not be making any further statement on the subject at this time”.

A Copps campaign spokesman said that his position is insulting to the intelligence of the Liberal delegates. I could not agree more. This week, Canada is at the crossroads; yet, the man who wants to be Prime Minister