

Well, Mr. Speaker, under this government Atlantic Canadians have never had it so bad, and they have never been short-changed so much. Numbers don't lie.

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• (1410)

SOUTH KOREA

Mr. Bill Vankoughnet (Hastings—Frontenac—Lennox and Addington): Mr. Speaker, I pay tribute today to the Republic of South Korea as it celebrates its national foundation day.

It was not long ago that Korea and its impressive capital of Seoul were the very picture of devastation as a result of conflict which tore apart a people and culture as ancient as history itself. The Republic of South Korea has now developed a political and economic growth which is making it the envy of the world.

The Canada-Korea Parliamentary Friendship Group believes that closer co-operation with South Korea as a valued partner in our Asia-Pacific diplomacy is a worthwhile result. As chairman of the group I speak for all members in extending congratulations and best wishes to the national assembly and people of South Korea, and our thanks to Ambassador Park and his excellent staff at the embassy for all of their support and co-operation, with sincere wishes that our countries continue to enjoy good relations in the years to come.

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POVERTY

Ms. Joy Langan (Mission—Coquitlam): Mr. Speaker, yesterday I rose in the House to acknowledge Family Week and to note that 1.2 million children in Canada live in poverty.

Today I rise to draw the attention of the House to the results of an inquiry into hunger in Regina released yesterday by Mayor Doug Archer. This report noted that in a community with a population of 180,000, 5,500 meals and 6,000 boxes of food a month are distributed by community groups.

It is easy to write off numbers. It is easy to blame the poor for their plight. But the reason they are poor is that they do not have work or money to buy food. Surely, no one here honestly believes that a family would go hungry if it could afford to buy food.

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The House must be shocked to learn that 34,000 people in Regina live below the poverty line and are hungry—34,000 people in the heart of the province that is the bread-basket of the world.

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INDUSTRY

Mr. Girve Fretz (Erie): Mr. Speaker, the *Times Review*, a newspaper in my town of Fort Erie, headlined a story this way, "Fort Erie booming", and continued, "This community is building its way to record heights." Building permits to the end of August totalled a record setting \$32,359,000. This tops the town's 1988 figures of \$26.4 million for 12 months.

The Niagara corridor is strategically positioned to benefit from the free trade agreement. Half the population of North America is within a one day's drive of the Niagara peninsula. This represents tremendous opportunities. The free trade agreement has helped to stimulate the great growth that we are enjoying.

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MULTICULTURALISM

Mrs. Shirley Maheu (Saint-Laurent—Cartierville): Mr. Speaker, the Minister of State responsible for Multiculturalism made what Canadian Macedonians believe to be offensive remarks.

This summer the minister attended a conference in Greece hosted by the Pan Macedonian Organization where he said, among other things, that there is no Macedonian nation.

Does the minister not realize that to deny the distinctiveness of the Macedonian community in Canada is a serious affront to this group? Will the minister apologize for this statement?

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CANADIAN CORPS OF COMMISSIONAIRES

Mr. W. C. Scott (Victoria—Haliburton): Mr. Speaker, today I want to pay tribute to the men and women who continue to serve this country so well in uniform, members of the Canadian Corps of Commissionaires. We, who work in Ottawa are particularly aware of the courteous, efficient presence of the corps. Our government buildings are kept secure by those smartly dressed uniformed men and women.