

S.O. 21

letterheads of various boards and agencies. Our Lambton College is using the logo as a major marketing tool to attract students to the college. Bumper stickers, balloons, and parades are all in the works.

My riding realizes that the time is long overdue to celebrate, publicize, and enjoy the multitude of positive aspects of our area, and we invite all to help us "Celebrate Sarnia".

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YOUTH

CONSERVATIVE PARTY ELECTION PROMISES

Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry-Prescott-Russell): Mr. Speaker, during the last election campaign the Conservative Party made several promises to the Canadian people. As a matter of fact, you will recall that I brought 338 such promises to your attention. Today I would like to read to you some promises which the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) made to the youth of Canada.

The Conservative Party promised to create, at the national level, a Canada Opportunity Development Board, and to examine the feasibility of allowing unemployment insurance and welfare benefits to be used as start-up funds for new businesses for our youth. It promised to encourage local youth to organize local youth councils voluntarily, and to supplement the Ministry of State for Youth. The Conservatives promised to create a national registry for exchange of job information for youth, and to place a high priority on the establishment of professional counselling for the youth of Canada. The Prime Minister and the Progressive Conservative Party have betrayed the youth of our country.

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LABOUR CONDITIONS

ANNOUNCEMENT OF LAY-OFFS BY IMPERIAL OIL

Mr. Rod Murphy (Churchill): It was with regret that I read this morning that Imperial Oil intends to lay off over 1,200 employees. On numerous occasions the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Miss Carney) and the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson) have stood in the House and said that the low world oil prices are a temporary condition; yet these people are being laid off on a permanent basis.

I call upon Imperial Oil, which has been making a good profit in the last couple of years, to be a good corporate citizen with regard to the way in which it treats its workers. I also call upon the Government to meet immediately with the company and representatives of the workers to avoid unnecessary lay-offs which will not only harm the employment prospects of these people, but will cause an unnecessary financial hardship on the people affected.

[Translation]

EMPLOYMENT

GOVERNMENT'S PERFORMANCE

Mr. André Plourde (Kamouraska-Rivière-du-Loup): Mr. Speaker, since the election, 577,000 jobs have been created. The unemployment rate was 9.8 per cent in February, compared with 11.7 per cent on election day. In January it was the first time the unemployment rate dropped below 10 per cent since 1982. The rate at which jobs are being created in Canada is higher than in any major OECD country. Comparatively speaking, jobs are being created 75 per cent faster in Canada than in the United States. The number of jobs for young people has increased by 50,000 since the election, compared with a net loss of 285,000 under the Liberals. Today, the number of working women is 306,000 more than it was in September 1984. The number of unemployed has dropped by 1,000 since January and February 1986, and by 204,000 since September 1984, and the employment rate has gone up in all provinces.

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[English]

HUMAN RIGHTS

ZIMBABWE—JAILING OF OPPOSITION MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

Mr. John Oostrom (Willowdale): Mr. Speaker, Mr. Edward Ndlovu, an opposition Member of Parliament in Zimbabwe, is being detained against his will in jail and is gravely ill. In its annual report Amnesty International describes Zimbabwe as a nation in which enforced starvation, widespread detentions, beatings, torture and killings of civilians are the order of the day.

According to his wife, a Toronto woman of a former CUSO worker, Mr. Ndlovu's health is rapidly failing. Mr. Ndlovu's right side, where he received a new kidney in Ottawa in 1978, is becoming numb and requires dialysis treatment which cannot be procured in prison.

As fellow Commonwealth parliamentarians, we in this House must do everything possible to ensure that Mr. Edward Ndlovu is released. Democracy cannot tolerate such abuses.

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[Translation]

THE ECONOMY

GOVERNMENT'S PERFORMANCE

Mrs. Suzanne Duplessis (Louis-Hébert): Mr. Speaker, I am very enthusiastic about the excellent news heard this morning: the economic growth continues unabated and interest rates are declining.