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Mines (Mr. Merrithew) to meet with his B.C. counterpart to ensure the \$200 million is invested in a forest resource and therefore enable tens of thousands of unemployed to find long-term or permanent jobs.

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● (1110)

SHIPBUILDING**PORT WELLER DRY DOCKS**

Mr. Joe Reid (St. Catharines): Mr. Speaker, St. Catharines has been the gateway to the Welland Canal and the Upper Great Lakes from the early 1820s.

Shipbuilding has been part of our heritage for over 150 years with the Port Weller Dry Docks continuing that long tradition.

Rationalization of shipbuilding on the Great Lakes has already taken place to the extent that Port Weller Dry Docks is the only Canadian Great Lakes shipbuilding yard left.

The union at that yard telexed that its workforce is reduced to a skeleton force of 62, the lowest level in 20 years.

While Canada's coastal maritime history is long and rich, let us not forget this great waterway to the heart of the continent and the skilled workers waiting there for work at this last remaining yard on the entire Canadian Great Lakes.

I encourage the Government to recognize the importance of maintaining an inland shipyard. Award a contract now to Port Weller and keep some 300 experienced yard workers off the unemployment rolls.

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CANADA POST CORPORATION**HIRING OF REPLACEMENT WORKERS DURING LABOUR DISPUTES**

Mr. Alfonso Gagliano (Saint-Léonard—Anjou): I want to read a letter addressed to the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans (Mr. Siddon) concerning the Post Office:

As a taxpayer I must protest the way in which the Conservative government is handling the recent disputes at Canada Post. I am also dismayed to see the government allow Canada Post to privatize mail services.

The government knows that violence will occur if Canada Post uses replacement workers, but the government is allowing it to happen. I believe these replacement workers have the right to work, but the Government should provide them with full-time employment instead of using them as pawns in labour disputes.

Service has already decreased because of the privatization of mail services. To pick up a parcel or register I now have to stand in a long line-up—

The Government already created a strike in the Post Office last month. It is doing everything in its power to have another

strike by the end of this month. That is the record of three years of Progressive Conservative government.

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TRADE**LUXEMBOURG—PROSPERITY RESULT OF FREE TRADE AGREEMENTS**

Mr. Bob Hicks (Scarborough East): Mr. Speaker, the fast-track approach to a free trade agreement with the United States is quickly approaching and with it a genuine desire to secure the best deal possible for both countries.

Support for a free trade agreement between Canada and our American neighbour was echoed yesterday by Prime Minister Jacques Santer of Luxembourg who said: "It seems to me, from the purely economic point of view, Canada can only benefit from a free trading system with the U.S. and the rest of the world".

Luxembourg, with a population of only 367,000, has free trade agreements and prospers as a result. It has the highest standard of living in the European Community, the European Community's lowest unemployment rate of 1.3 per cent, and the lowest level of annual inflation at 0.3 per cent.

Luxembourg has historically forged trading ties with its neighbours while maintaining its cultural and political sovereignty. I hope the same will result for Canada.

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FISHERIES**FRASER RIVER—EFFECT OF DREDGING OPERATIONS**

Ms. Pauline Jewett (New Westminster—Coquitlam): Mr. Speaker, fishermen on the West Coast are concerned about the many dredging operations that occur each year during openings on the Fraser River. The dredging performed by the Department of Public Works seriously hampers the gill-netting process and at times has cost the fishermen the loss of important income and the loss or damage of fishing gear.

Gill-netters on the Fraser River have asked the Minister of Public Works (Mr. McInnes) to consider rescheduling dredging operations from the current Monday to Friday schedule to a Tuesday to Saturday schedule for those few weeks each year that there are openings on the river.

In view of the fact that our fishermen contribute millions of dollars each year to our economy, I urge the Minister and his Department to review this situation immediately with an eye to reducing the impact that river dredging has upon fishing activities and fish habitat in the Fraser.