

*S. O. 31*

offering to slash price support to dairy farmers by 50 per cent and to open 5 per cent of the Canadian market at the GATT, this government is making a very serious error.

The Dairy Farmers of Canada have never agreed to the position of offering 5 per cent access by volume to the Americans. The dairy farmers were prepared to offer 5 per cent by value and no more than 3 per cent by volume. Let there be no confusion. This government is acting against the advice of the Dairy Farmers of Canada.

This government's free trade agreement and its flop at GATT show its failure to protect Canadian dairy farmers and supply management.

I ask the Minister for International Trade to pay a lot more attention to the agricultural talks at GATT and to show a bit of concern for dairy farmers, and indeed for rural Canada.

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**SMALL BUSINESS WEEK**

**Mr. John A. MacDougall (Timiskaming):** Mr. Speaker, today marks the beginning of our annual Small Business Week. My colleague, the Minister of State for Small Businesses and Tourism is announcing this year's theme, *Quality and Productivity: The Competitive Edge*.

As we all realize, small businessmen today are confronted with many changes in trading patterns, marketing techniques and the demands of the consumer. It is the disturbing pace of change that has brought these issues of quality and productivity to the forefront.

As the minister has pointed out many times, "to be competitive, Canadian companies must do more than simply match the price, service and design of competitors on a local and regional scale. They must compete on a global scale, and that means providing products and services their customers want and can count on".

In the minister's comments, there can be found the thrust behind this year's Small Business Week. With the federal government's support, we can be certain that our

small businessmen across this country will rise to their new challenges of the ever-changing global marketplace.

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**BILL C-21**

**Mr. Joseph Volpe (Eglinton—Lawrence):** Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Employment and Immigration is shutting the door on worker adjustment programs and on the variable entrance requirement, hoping those affected will take their frustrations out on the opposition in the Senate.

Since July her department has refused resources to those eligible for funding under section 26 for retraining. Officials claim increased demand and a shortage of funds because of Senate inaction on Bill C-21. Nothing could be further from the truth.

At the same time, the minister was able to get a 200 per cent increase in dollars earmarked for ensuring part-time employment for those threatened by lay-offs. This type of employment hides the true unemployment rate. Economic indicators point to some 140,000 full-time job losses in manufacturing this year alone.

The minister can today do something about both. She can make a commitment that, upon Senate passage of Bill C-21, moneys will be made available automatically to those who have been denied job retraining since July. She can also make the variable entrance requirement retroactive for those who have already suffered in the hard hit areas.

It is time that the minister put action behind her words.

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**VIA RAIL**

**Mr. Iain Angus (Thunder Bay—Atikokan):** Mr. Speaker, is this a government that can run a modern railroad? Once again, the evidence says no.

VIA Rail just rolled out its brand spanking new rolling stock, with the latest in fixtures and appointments; everything you could imagine, even electric heat instead of steam. The one thing it did not install was a tank for holding human waste.

VIA's brand new equipment still dumps human sewage as it moves, leaving it to be found by the people who work on or near the tracks.