

S.O. 21

strike in 1982. He won that battle and was finally allowed to receive visitors and mail.

This is not just a struggle to free one more political prisoner; it is a struggle for fundamental human rights. Members attending the Human Rights Experts Conference here in Ottawa need to be strongly reminded of Anatoly's struggle.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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VICTORIA DAY

REASONS FOR COMMEMORATION

Mr. Stan Darling (Parry Sound-Muskoka): Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remind the House of some very important dates in the history of Canada.

May 20 is Victoria Day. That date is more than simply a weekday departure from the work-place. That holiday commemorates the birth of Queen Victoria, daughter of Edward, who was the son of George III.

Victoria ascended the throne in 1837 and reigned 63 years. She died at the age of 81 in the year 1901.

It was during her reign that a very special country was born in North America. The breath of life was given to Canada, transforming a British colony into a productive and powerful country.

Since that time the Royal Family has retained the respect and admiration of the people of Canada and countries around the world.

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, who was born on April 21, will formally celebrate her birth date on June 15 this year. According to tradition, her subjects will join in the festivities led by the Trooping of the Colour. That fabulous military parade constitutes one of the high spots of spring in England.

Canada's love for the Queen was much in evidence during her visit here last year from September 24 to October 7. From the bottom of our hearts, may we all say to her: "God save the Queen!"

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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TRADE

BLUEBERRY EXPORTS TO EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY

Mr. David Dingwall (Cape Breton-East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, I was pleased to learn today that the Government has reached a tentative agreement with the European Economic Community with respect to the proposed tariff on Nova Scotia blueberries. That is very welcome news.

The blueberry industry in Nova Scotia is one of the bright-spots for employment in that province. The industry grows \$15 million to \$20 million worth of blueberries annually.

There are at the present time some 1,000 or more blueberry growers in the Province of Nova Scotia who employ approximately 800 full-time workers and 4,000 seasonal workers each year.

● (1410)

In March of this year the various states within the European Economic Community announced they would be imposing a new 25 per cent tariff on Canadian blueberries. This proposed tariff would pose a very real threat to the industry in Nova Scotia. The European market is, after all, the single largest importer of Nova Scotia blueberries.

I think it is obvious, Mr. Speaker, that the Government cannot afford to protect one industry at the expense of another. I call upon members of the Government to ensure that this tentative agreement is ratified as expeditiously as possible, because the Province of Nova Scotia cannot afford to lose any of the economic benefits which are associated with the blueberry industry, not only in mainland Nova Scotia but also in the Highlands of Cape Breton Island.

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MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

REMUNERATION—OPPOSITION TO PROPOSED INCREASES

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops-Shuswap): Mr. Speaker, as Hon. Members of the House are aware, it has been proposed that salaries and benefits of Members of Parliament be improved. As chairperson of the New Democratic Party caucus, I wish to inform the House, and all Canadians, that we do not share the conclusions of the task force report. It is our view that Members of Parliament are already adequately compensated—

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Riis:—and, indeed, at a time when so many Canadians are unemployed and waiting for the Government to take constructive steps to improve the Canadian economy, it would be misguided and inappropriate to put the salaries of Members of Parliament on the government agenda. The priority of the Conservative Government should be to put Canada's unemployed back to work, and it should review the tax system which allows thousands of wealthy Canadians to avoid paying income tax, which results in an increased tax burden on an overwhelming number of Canadian taxpayers.

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[Translation]

EMPLOYMENT

DESBIENS (QUEBEC)—REOPENING OF ST-RAYMOND PAPER MILL

Mr. Jean-Pierre Blackburn (Jonquière): Mr. Speaker, today, speaking on behalf of the regional Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean caucus and its constituents, I would like to congratulate