

I have just received reports that three Latvian demonstrators have been arrested. Telephone lines used by the foreign press have been cut off and the CBC has been refused permission to travel to Riga.

Today the Latvian community in Canada invites all Canadians to join with them in commemorating the spirit of independence, and in demonstrating their desire for liberty and justice in their homeland.

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TRADE

CANADA-UNITED STATES TRADE AGREEMENT—EFFECT ON POLYESTER YARN MILL

Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry—Prescott—Russell): Mr. Speaker, I received a letter in the mail which really confirms just how lousy the Prime Minister's (Mr. Mulroney) free trade deal is. It reads as follows:

This letter is written objecting to the planned agreement on free trade with the U.S.A.

You are familiar with our operation on Cameron Street in Hawkesbury at which we produce textured polyester yarn in a modern plant with excellent high-speed equipment. Should total free trade with the U.S.A. be placed in effect, we beyond doubt will have to close our plant in Hawkesbury.

We could not possibly compete with firms in the U.S.A., one of which presently produces in excess of five million pounds weekly. Our production in Hawkesbury is approximately 200,000 pounds weekly.

This letter was sent to me by the Texturon Mill in Hawkesbury. Less than 50 miles from Parliament Hill, plants will be shut down as a result of this lousy free trade deal. The Prime Minister should be ashamed of his deal. He should be ashamed to ruin the livelihood of my constituents.

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ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

NITROGEN OXIDE EMISSIONS

Mr. Stan Darling (Parry Sound—Muskoka): Mr. Speaker, Canada is leading the fight against acid rain. The Government has implemented a series of programs that will drastically reduce nitrogen oxide emissions from the largest Canadian sources by up to 45 per cent by the year 2000. In regard to protocol, it is the Government's belief that all countries should immediately freeze their nitrogen oxide emissions.

Second, decisions should be reached quickly on the level of nitrogen oxide that cause environmental damage in each region. Once those target levels or "critical loads" are identified, each country should ensure that nitrogen oxide emissions do not exceed those levels.

Our Government has implemented one of the strongest nitrogen oxide control programs in the world. For mobile

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sources, the elements of the program include, amongst others, anti-tampering and misfueling programs for vehicles in Ontario, Quebec and Newfoundland, and virtual elimination of leaded gas by 1992. All 1988 cars and light trucks will be subject to three times stricter emission control than before.

The Minister of the Environment (Mr. McMillan) has been relentless in his efforts to convince everyone of the dangers of acid rain. For that, and the strict standards he has implemented, he is to be congratulated.

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LABOUR CONDITIONS

CALL FOR NEW PROGRAM TO HELP OLDER WORKERS

Ms. Sheila Copps (Hamilton East): Mr. Speaker, I was most pleased to read this morning in the paper that the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) has finally lived up to his promise and set up a pension plan for workers in his former riding of Central Nova. At the same time I would like to ask the Prime Minister and the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson) what happened to their promise for older workers in the financial statement of November, 1985.

There is a woman in my riding who, under the previous Liberal administration, would have been eligible for a pension when a clothing factory ceased to operate. She lived up to all the requirements of the Labour Adjustments Benefits Program. However, because the Government cut the program she does not receive a penny.

The Government promised it was going to replace the program with a new program for older workers. What is good for the older workers in Central Nova should be good for the older workers across Canada. I ask the Prime Minister to live up to his promise to every older worker, not just the workers in his former riding.

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[Translation]

FREE TRADE

NECESSITY TO MAKE POPULATION WELL INFORMED

Mr. Nic Leblanc (Longueuil): Mr. Speaker, I would like to share with Hon. Members a most gratifying experience. After an agreement in principle on free trade was signed by Canada and United States, I decided to explain the facts of the matter to my constituents, using the information material prepared for the House of Commons. I set up a temporary office in a mobile booth that goes to the three main shopping centres in my riding. This gives me a chance to meet with my constituents and discuss free trade and any other questions they care to bring up.