

S. O. 21

• (1410)

[English]

## AGRICULTURE

## ESSEX COUNTY, ONT.—EFFECT OF DROUGHT

**Mr. Steven W. Langdon (Essex—Windsor):** Mr. Speaker, this past weekend I took a disaster tour through the drought stricken areas of Essex County and I saw devastation which I have never seen before on the farms of that county. I saw cuts in normal production of as much as 40 per cent on farms which were fortunate and as much as 85 per cent on farms which were not fortunate. I saw seed corn which had been totally devastated because of the drought.

I saw examples of all sorts of crops of every kind that demonstrated that there must be in Essex County, just as in western Canada, urgent action on drought. It must come fast so that farmers can make decisions and predictions and be in a position to be able to plan for the future.

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[Translation]

## POLITICAL PARTIES

## ALLEGED LIBERAL-SOCIALIST MARRIAGE

**Mr. Gabriel Fontaine (Lévis):** Mr. Speaker, having been away from the House of Commons for a few days, I noticed upon my return this morning an official, formal statement that the socialists and Liberals intend to live together. For a long time, the two leaders had been exchanging compromising winks, but it was not official. On August 15, 1988, the socialist and Liberal love-birds signed their marriage contract. A marriage of love! A marriage of self-interest!

I wish this new couple, this embryonic socialist-Liberal family, as few children as possible and a golden wedding anniversary in the Opposition, with pleasure.

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[English]

## ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

## FEDERAL FUNDING SOUGHT BY INVENTOR TO PROTECT MAPLE TREES

**Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry—Prescott—Russell):** Mr. Speaker, over the weekend Canadians listened to the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) who pretended to be concerned about the environment. In my own constituency there is an inventor by the name of Bill Haines, of Vankleek Hill, Ontario. Eleven years ago he developed a formula to save Canada's sugar-maple trees. Some three or four years ago he approached the present federal Government to get assistance

to further develop and to test this new product made of silica which would assist in the protection of our forests.

Much to his chagrin, and even with the help not only of myself but of the Hon. Member for Parry Sound—Muskoka (Mr. Darling), Mr. Haines has been unable to obtain federal government funding for the project in question. I call upon the Government to listen to the good advice offered to it by the Hon. Member for Parry Sound—Muskoka and by me, and to assist with this project which could go a long way toward reducing the damage done by acid rain to our sugar-maple trees.

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## INDUSTRY

## REBOUND OF PETROCHEMICAL INDUSTRY

**Mr. Sid Fraleigh (Lambton—Middlesex):** Mr. Speaker, my riding is heavily dependent on the petrochemical industry. Unfortunately, as the rest of my province was booming, the Lambton County and Sarnia area was suffering high unemployment rates and a very depressed economy.

The industry has finally recovered from the disastrous results of the National Energy Program. Never was there a program so ill-conceived. It ravaged the entire industry: the primary sector in the West and the refining and petrochemical industry in the East.

I have good news. The industry is finally rebounding, buoyed not only by the abolition of the National Energy Program but also by the very positive aspects of the free trade agreement for that industry.

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## EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

## CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND POLAND—STRUGGLE FOR FREEDOM

**Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa):** Mr. Speaker, 20 years ago on August 20 the tanks of the Soviet Union and other Warsaw Pact countries rolled into Czechoslovakia to put down one of the most courageous, determined struggles for genuine freedom that this century has witnessed. Today in Czechoslovakia there are courageous civil libertarians who want the same basic human rights that we take for granted in this country, civil rights, the right to organize trade unions, and the right to participate in a full and humane way in society.

The neighbouring country of Poland participated, under a communist Government, in the invasion by the Warsaw Pact countries of Czechoslovakia in 1968. In Poland today there are men and women struggling democratically to form a free trade union.