

S.O. 22

global flat tax or by other means. Access to transportation is surely one of the great links in our chain of national unity.

● (1405)

With respect, the removal of the ceiling on the Canadian air transportation tax should be re-examined with a view to restoring regional equity, thus recognizing the historical and geographical travel requirements of all Canadians.

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[Translation]

THE ECONOMY

INCREASE IN REAL ESTATE SALES

Mr. Marcel R. Tremblay (Quebec East): According to the Canadian Real Estate Association, Mr. Speaker, the residential real estate market in Canada improved considerably last month, chalking up the best figures ever recorded in any month of October.

The survey was based on operations through the multiple listing service, a collective marketing system used by most of the 112 real estate agencies in Canada.

Last month's house sales in 25 Canadian metropolitan areas exceeded by some 2,000 the number of units sold throughout Canada in October 1984.

More than 200,000 houses were bought through the MLS this year, and 1985 will prove to be the best year ever in terms of residential real estate transactions in Canada.

Sales during each month of 1985 were better than those in each corresponding month in 1984, including the month of October. MLS house sales in Canadian urban areas rose by 39.5 per cent over those of 1984.

CREA President David Hawkins has indicated that lower interest rates, stabilizing prices and favourable economic prospects have contributed to rising real estate transactions. Mr. Hawkins went on to say that "the real estate industry is not the only one to benefit from such buoyant market conditions because, when house sales are good, business improves as well for electrical appliances manufacturers, surveyors, decorators, moving companies and many other Canadians".

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[English]

NATIONAL PARKS

CELEBRATION OF CENTENNIAL—CRITICISM OF GOVERNMENT POLICY

Hon. Chas. L. Caccia (Davenport): Mr. Speaker, in two days we will celebrate 100 years of national parks in Canada in an atmosphere of retreat. The Government has cut \$30 million from the Parks Canada capital budget. It is sitting on a

marine park policy which was ready to go in the summer of 1984.

The Government has not built on what it found. Even Ellesmere Park, ready to go since September, 1984, is waiting for action. Nothing has been done about declaring the Bruce Peninsula a national park. Nothing has been done to give goals and scope to Canada's second century in parks.

Nothing has been done to establish a parks capital acquisition fund in order to ensure the continued growth of our national parks system. The Government has failed to provide leadership in resolving the issues surrounding the four mountain parks in the Rocky Mountains—where it all started.

The Government deserves little thanks for the way it has handled Canada's national parks in its celebration of the centennial thus far. There has been a lot of public relations but no substance.

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FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL FISCAL ARRANGEMENTS

SIZE OF FEDERAL TRANSFER PAYMENTS

Mr. Rod Murphy (Churchill): Mr. Speaker, the Conservative Government plans to advance by one year its scheme to cut \$400 million in federal transfer payments to the provinces. If this plan becomes a reality, it would fly in the face of the promise for full reinstatement of such money made by the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) during the election campaign.

I would like to read from page 98 of the Progressive Conservative campaign handbook. It says: "We would return to the 1977 funding formula... for post-secondary education".

No doubt the Premiers are becoming increasingly concerned about the effect that these cuts will have on the provinces. The Quebec and Atlantic Premiers have joined Manitoba and are starting to let their true feelings be known, much to the chagrin of the Prime Minister.

The Premiers and their Finance Ministers, as well as other Canadians, are beginning to realize that the Government does not consult with anybody but a polling firm. In fact, amending this legislation before its expiry period in April, 1986, instead of April, 1987, is being done without provincial consensus. It is a major unilateral action by the Conservative Government.

May I remind the Prime Minister that his Government was elected on a promise of greater agreement and co-operation with the provinces? I call upon the Government, in its meeting with the Premiers in Halifax later this week, to live up to its promises to Canadian students, to live up to its promises to people who are concerned about medicare services, and withdraw the proposal to reduce funding from medicare and post-secondary education.