

The problem with this statement by the Minister is that it is simply not true according to government officials, and it is quite improper for her to mislead Canadians this way, especially those who live in border cities like Sault Ste. Marie, Canada.

The 12 per cent sales tax will still apply to imports from the United States; the \$100 limit after a 48-hour visit will still apply; duties will not be reduced if the article imported is not made in the United States. The reduction in duties where they exist on U.S. manufactured goods will take place slowly over a 10-year period on many items.

The Minister and the Government should stop deceiving Canadians about the trade deal.

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THE DISABLED AND THE HANDICAPPED

PUBLIC SERVICE—INCREASED HIRING OF DISABLED PERSONS

Mr. Bill Tupper (Nepean—Carleton): Mr. Speaker, for many years I have been interested in the welfare of the handicapped. While at Carleton University I urged the university on many occasions to develop the institution in such a way that it would make the entire university more accessible to the handicapped.

Last spring I introduced a Private Members' Motion in this House seeking certain tax concessions for the handicapped. That motion, regretfully, was talked out. I am pleased to note that when the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson) presented his White Paper on tax reform many of the proposals I made were incorporated.

Last week I particularly welcomed the announcement by the Deputy Prime Minister (Mr. Mazankowski) that the federal Government will hire an additional 2,700 disabled persons over the next three years and will proceed with plans to make federal government programs and services more accessible to the handicapped. This will bring the number of disabled persons in the Public Service by 1991 to 6,900.

The Government has also approved a number of measures to enhance the Employment Equity Programs, and some \$3.7 million will be provided to improve counselling services and to ensure that technical aids for the handicapped are available in the workplace.

The handicapped deserve everything with which society can provide them. This Government, sensitive to their needs and requirements, has taken a very positive step forward.

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SOVEREIGNTY

CANADIAN ARCTIC—PROPOSED CANADA-UNITED STATES AGREEMENT

Ms. Audrey McLaughlin (Yukon): Mr. Speaker, the deal to allow American ice-breakers in the Canadian Arctic will soon be signed, we are told by the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Clark). We are assured that this agreement which does not assert our sovereignty acknowledges it through the back door by giving permission to be informed by the United States—hardly the brave words and strong stand taken by the Minister in 1985 when he assured us that the policy of the Government was to exercise full sovereignty over the Arctic and that, in his words, "we will accept no substitute". Further, on March 23, 1987, we were told by the same Minister that "our sovereignty is not negotiable".

We are not reassured. We appear to have a treaty which indeed accepts a substitute for clarifying Canadian sovereignty.

The trail of broken promises is littered with questions.

Will this treaty prejudice Canada's case with the International Court should we pursue this avenue? Is this agreement a prelude to guaranteeing commercial marine traffic through the passage? What is the tie to the trade agreement? Does this mean exports of Alaskan oil to Canada negotiated in the trade agreement will be moved via the passage rather than the West Coast? Is this a case by case approval for the movement of ice-breakers or, indeed, a blanket approval?

Credibility is strained. Canadians have a right to know. I call on the Minister to bring this treaty before Parliament before it is signed. Arctic sovereignty is too crucial to be given away by benign acquiescence.

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THE FAMILY

TRIBUTE TO SCHOUTEN FAMILY

Mr. John Oostrom (Willowdale): Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member for Simcoe North (Mr. Lewis), the Hon. Member for Simcoe South (Mr. Stewart), and myself wish to honour Mrs. Karen Schouten and her late husband Fred. Fred Schouten, 36, died suddenly of a heart attack, a mere two months after daughter Gabriel, and one day after his second wedding anniversary. For Mrs. Schouten this was a double blow.

It was the Schoutens' courageous decision to allow the birth of Gabriel even after they discovered that baby Gabriel would be born with a partial brain. Baby Gabriel was kept alive for three days and her heart was transplanted into another baby who was born with a poor heart and, in the process, brought hope and happiness to another family.