

## CANADIAN CULTURE

IMPORTANCE OF SMALL LIBRAIRIES TO CULTURAL  
ACTIVITIES—WORK OF VOLUNTEERS

**Mr. Gabriel Desjardins (Témiscamingue):** Mr. Speaker, last Saturday on May 10, the first regional library convention of Abitibi-Témiscamingue was held in Rouyn-Noranda.

The general meeting, attended by more than 300 volunteer workers, was held to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the central lending library and pay tribute to hundreds of volunteers, the majority of whom are women, who are known throughout our region for their dedication to promoting books and reading.

I would like to point out that in 1976, we had only five or six libraries in Abitibi-Témiscamingue. Today, in 1986, we have about 80 libraries throughout the region, in communities with a population of less than 5,000.

In a region where organizing recreational activities is left up to the major municipalities, these several dozen small libraries play a fundamental role in promoting cultural activities locally.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to offer my sincere congratulations to all administrators and the 900 or so volunteer workers on their dedication to improving our cultural and social environment.

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[English]

## THE ECONOMY

## SUCCESS OF GOVERNMENT POLICIES

**Mr. Lawrence I. O'Neil (Cape Breton Highlands—Canso):** Mr. Speaker, the economic policies of the Government are working. Progress is being made in rebuilding the Canadian economy. The national unemployment rate has fallen to 9.6 per cent, down more than three percentage points. More than 600,000 jobs have been created.

These benefits are being felt in Atlantic Canada. The Government's regional development policies are bringing benefits to my riding. For example, the Government, through the Minister of State for Forestry (Mr. Merrithew), has announced a \$10-million forestry renewal project. A special multimillion-dollar tourism agreement is being prepared. Other policies like the Atlantic Enterprise Program and the Atlantic Opportunities Program have been announced and will bring more benefits to the region.

Some of the first industries in recent decades have been announced for my region. Guysborough, Richmond, and Inverness Counties have received manufacturing facilities. This is success that was not achieved before, and there will be more success stories to talk about in the future.

## S.O. 21

## TRADE

LUMBER EXPORTS TO UNITED STATES—THREAT OF  
COUNTERVAILING DUTIES

**Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops—Shuswap):** Mr. Speaker, making off the record deals that are not in the best interests of Canadians is fast becoming a hallmark of the Government. Today we learned of yet another deal. Today the United States Forest Producers lodged a petition with the United States Commerce Department and the United States International Trade Commission calling for countervailing duties of \$53.65 U.S. per thousand board feet to be levied against our \$2.8-billion softwood lumber exports to the United States of America.

We New Democrats always believed that President Reagan had made a deal with the United States Senate Finance Committee to get it to agree to a fast track free trade proposal and that the deal was that the administration would support a countervail proposal. Obviously the Canadian Government was aware of this off the record deal and was quite prepared to make our softwood lumber industry the sacrificial lamb in the free trade talks. How can free trade talks continue with this lumber countervailing duty axe hanging over our heads? Why has the Government of Canada apparently abandoned Canadian lumber producers?

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● (1405)

## TRADE

IMPORTANCE OF CANADIAN LUMBER EXPORTS TO UNITED  
STATES

**Mr. Gerry St. Germain (Mission—Port Moody):** Mr. Speaker, our upcoming trade talks with the United States are about to begin. I should like to say a few words on the importance of these talks.

In 1985 trade between our two countries totalled more than \$150 billion; 79 per cent of our exports goes to the United States and 21 per cent of theirs comes to Canada. Last year we sold more than \$100 billion of goods and services to Americans. We are the closest and most important trading partner of the largest and richest market in the world. We must secure our access to that market if Canadian export industries, such as our lumber industry and the B.C. cedar shakes and shingle industry, are to survive.

If these trade talks are to be launched successfully, politicians on both sides of the border must steadfastly resist creeping protectionism in all sectors. It is in this spirit that I am sure the President of the United States will deal with the current recommendations of the International Trade Commission. Let us be positive about this, not negative.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Sixty seconds.