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Canada's tourism industry has also been hard hit by the Government. Air travel is becoming ever more popular, so the Minister raises the federal tax on this means of transportation to the tune of \$4 a ticket.

In a previous Budget the Minister of Finance had promised less red tape for businesses. Today he announces that, twice instead of once a month, employers will be expected to remit source deductions on wages, thus making the administrative load that much heavier. This measure will seriously affect certain sectors of small- and medium-size businesses.

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ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS**RESPONSIBILITY OF QUEBEC MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT TO APPEAR BEFORE COMMITTEE**

Mr. Gabriel Desjardins (Témiscamingue): Mr. Speaker, as a Member of the Special Committee on Acid Rains, I deeply regret the attitude of the Quebec Minister of Environment who, on January 28, 1987, refused to appear before our committee.

Since February 5, the Environment Ministers of Manitoba, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick or their representatives, have appeared before our committee. The Ontario Minister of Environment did as recently as this morning.

Mr. Speaker, knowing that the second worst polluter in North America is found in Rouyn-Noranda, and knowing also the polluted state of our lakes, forests, and maple groves in Quebec, I feel that the Quebec Minister of Environment should have agreed to come before our committee to discuss this situation and seek appropriate remedies.

Mr. Speaker, I therefore urge the Quebec Minister of Environment to reconsider and to decide to appear before our committee.

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[English]

HISTORIC EVENTS**ESTONIA—ANNIVERSARY OF PROCLAMATION OF INDEPENDENCE**

Miss Aideen Nicholson (Trinity): Mr. Speaker, each year Canadians of Estonian origin gather to mark the anniversary of February 24, 1918, the day Estonia proclaimed its independence as a free and democratic republic. For this small nation whose people have survived adversity and oppression without ever losing their desire for freedom, the hard-won period of independence was all too short. It ended in 1940 when the Soviet Union forcibly and illegally annexed the three Baltic States of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania.

At this time when the Baltic States commemorate their days of freedom, it is appropriate to reflect on the precious gifts of democracy and freedom which Canadians are privileged to enjoy but which are denied to citizens of other countries. I know all Hon. Members will join me in reaffirming the hope we all share that our efforts will one day bring about the restoration of freedom and basic human rights in Estonia.

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EXTERNAL AID**EFFECT OF BUDGET PROVISIONS**

Mr. Jim Manly (Cowichan—Malahat—The Islands): Mr. Speaker, two days ago, Stephen Lewis, Canada's Ambassador to the United Nations, said that Africa will be in a state of endless poverty unless the international community increases its financial assistance. Lewis criticized the United States and the Soviet Union for cutting aid budgets and said that there has been a retreat from good faith on the part of several western countries.

Yesterday Canada's Finance Minister (Mr. Wilson) gave the developing world a bad-faith Budget. He juggled figures to save \$150 million in cash payments, and still pretends to contribute .5 per cent of our GNP to development. It does not work. When the juggling is over and the balls have fallen to the ground there will be \$92 million less for development. That money is urgently needed in the developing world. Once again the Government has wretched on the needs of the Third World.

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● (1410)

TARIFFS**LIFTING OF TARIFF ON CHRISTMAS TREE IMPORTS FROM UNITED STATES**

Mr. Lawrence I. O'Neil (Cape Breton Highlands—Canso): Mr. Speaker, yesterday the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson) outlined the outstanding economic accomplishments of the Government. Lower interest rates and a growing national economy are the most important ingredients of regional development. Grants alone do not work. My riding is benefiting like never before because of this progress.

The Minister also lifted the tariff on Christmas trees entering Canada from the U.S. The tariff served the purpose for which it was imposed and brought home to the U.S. Congress that trade barriers can be imposed by the Government of Canada as well. Because it has been lifted, the Christmas tree growers of Nova Scotia will be relieved. They were concerned about possible U.S. retaliation.

This is one clear example of why we need a stable and secure trading relationship with the U.S. It is shameful that