

Canada FitWeek is an ideal opportunity to experience the pleasure of taking part in physical activity and at the same time promote the benefits of active living.

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[English]

LAW OF THE SEA CONVENTION

Mr. Jim Fulton (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, the time has come for Canada to take the initiative and ratify the Law of the Sea Convention. I believe that by signing Canada will send a clear signal to the world that international law is the way to protect our common economies and environment.

We will be the 53rd nation to ratify and we need 60 to bring the treaty into force. Canada needs to assume the leadership and open the floodgates. Others will follow.

We all know the sorry state of our cod stocks, the overfishing, the pillage of our oceans. Here is the legal mechanism that will enhance our sovereignty and lead to a stable, peaceful legal order to resolve fishery problems and issues of ocean ecology and economy.

I do not need to remind this House of the seriousness of Arctic contamination or the savage interception of our west coast salmon on the high seas. Provisions in the Law of the Sea Convention will protect our Arctic from pollution. It will also protect our west coast salmon. Let us delay no longer. Future generations will thank us.

Thanks go to the World Federalists of Canada who, with others, have pushed long and hard for Canada to fulfil our basic international obligation.

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KAON PROJECT

Mr. Stan Wilbee (Delta): Mr. Speaker, I am very disappointed with the recent political manoeuvring by the B.C. provincial Minister of Finance, Mr. Glen Clark, who has attempted to discredit the federal government's commitment to the KAON project in British Columbia.

The facts are very clear. In September of last year the federal government through the Minister of Science, committed \$236 million for the construction of this project as well as to provide for one-third of the operating costs, an offer that the province has not yet responded to.

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By refusing to indicate what share of the operating costs the province is prepared to assume, and by refusing to supply information for the OECD science ministers meeting this weekend, Mr. Clark is jeopardizing the whole KAON project.

It is a shame that Mr. Clark has not spent as much time stating the province's commitment to KAON as he has attempting to discredit the federal government which remains committed to this project.

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WESTRAY COAL MINE DISASTER

Ms. Mary Clancy (Halifax): Mr. Speaker, when the whistle blows in coal towns, everyone feels the fear. When the whistle blew for Westray, we held our breath. We watched. We waited. We prayed. We hoped against hope for a miracle that did not come.

But now we are angry and we are asking why. Why once again did the whistle blow in a Nova Scotia mining town and herald death? Why were jobs more important than safety? Why did the mine open against the advice of federal experts? Why in the knowledge that the Foord seam was the most dangerous on earth did both governments rush to finance and guarantee Westray? Why did coal miners have to take such risks?

Will this be the last disaster? Will it be the last time? Or will the people of Nova Scotia's coal towns still live in trepidation waiting yet again for the whistle to blow?

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• (1410)

CROSS-BORDER SHOPPING

Mr. Ken James (Sarnia—Lambton): Mr. Speaker, last Friday, Statistics Canada was the bearer of good news for communities along the Canada-U.S. border, including my riding of Sarnia—Lambton.

Statistics Canada reported that same-day trips to the U.S. in March fell by 0.3 per cent. This represents the first monthly year-over-year decline in March since 1986.

What has contributed to this result? Factors like the decline in the value of our dollar, more aggressive retailing practices by our retailers, some rationalization of prices and greater enforcement by Canada Customs have no doubt had a part to play.