

Conservative Members to help guarantee the survival of these agencies that are so essential to the well-being of our society.

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[English]

POLITICAL PARTIES

CANADA-UNITED STATES TRADE AGREEMENT—POSITION OF LIBERAL AND NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTIES

Mr. Gordon Taylor (Bow River): Mr. Speaker, why do the New Democratic Party and the Liberals want to keep western Canada in bondage? For years we have had the highest freight rates in the country which have made us pay extra for everything we import from Ontario and Quebec and, in addition, high freight rates have been a major obstacle to our industrialization.

Manufacturers flee in haste when they hear about the freight rates on anything made in the west destined for the east. The competition will force down the freight rates to and from eastern Canada. In other words, free trade will let western Canada escape from bondage. Is that why the Liberals and the NDP are so vehemently and so unfairly fighting free trade? Why do these two Parties want to ensure that western Canadians will always be hewers of wood and carriers of water?

Free trade will be a major factor in providing western Canada with a new challenge and with the freedom to pursue it. I give notice now to the Liberals, the socialists, and to Premier Peterson that western Canada wants free trade and we are determined to get it.

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MEDICAL CARE

OPPOSITION TO BRITISH COLUMBIA PREMIER'S PROPOSAL

Ms. Margaret Mitchell (Vancouver East): Mr. Speaker, I am ashamed to report that the Premier of British Columbia plans to undermine Canada's medicare system. Recently he announced that British Columbia could soon have a system where those who can afford it would jump surgical waiting lists by paying to be treated at private hospitals. This is a two-tiered health care system, one for the rich and one for the poor. It contravenes the very principles of medicare Canadians support which require that high quality universal affordable services must be available for all Canadians regardless of incomes.

Canadians know that this American system which the Premier is copying is far inferior to Canada's medicare. Canadians overwhelming support the Canada Health Act. I

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appeal to the federal Minister of National Health and Welfare (Mr. Epp) who has a responsibility and duty to ensure that provinces comply with the Canada Health Act, to require that the full cash portion of the federal contribution only go to those provinces that conform.

Recent reports of the Auditor General have pointed out that this Minister has been negligent in his duty. He has not reported correctly to the House of Commons. I call upon the Minister to investigate this situation in British Columbia immediately and to ensure that future reports to Parliament contain full details as required by the Auditor General.

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SMALL BUSINESS WEEK 1987

TRIBUTE TO ALBERTA ENTREPRENEURS

Mrs. Barbara Sparrow (Calgary South): Mr. Speaker, this week across Canada a very important event is taking place, Small Business Week 1987. The theme this year will be "Entrepreneurship—Creating Opportunities". Small Business Week has been jointly organized by the federal Government, the Chamber of Commerce and the Federal Business Development Bank.

This is an opportunity for Canadians to salute our entrepreneurs. I am proud to say that the Province of Alberta is one of the top provinces in producing entrepreneurs. Despite the set-backs of our resource industry, I can assure this House that the entrepreneurial spirit is alive and well in Alberta.

● (1415)

Small business produces one-quarter of our Gross National Product and accounts for 8 per cent of our exports. Canada depends on trade. The role of small business cannot be underestimated.

Our present prospects of a free trade agreement with the United States will undoubtedly give small business an even greater role in the future toward strengthening our economy. Small business produces 20 per cent of all wages of Canadian businesses and accounts for one-quarter of the income of all employees and owners in the private sector of our country. These figures would also be enhanced by a free trade agreement.

Small businesses offer better opportunities for women. Almost one-third of small businesses are owned by women, and these figures continue to improve.

I encourage all Canadians, particularly those in government, education, and the private sector to recognize, stimulate and promote the entrepreneurship option to potential innovators.