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In this request I am joined by the Metropolitan Toronto Library Association, the North York Library Association, the Canadian Museums Association, the Canadian Library Association, the Canadian Teachers' Federation, ACTRA, the Canadian Conference of the Arts, the Art Gallery of Ontario, the Canadian Arts Federation, the University of Alberta, the University of Calgary, the Association of Canadian Publishers, the League of Canadian Poets, the Toronto Arts Council, the Playwrights Union of Canada, the Canada Council—a federal agency which urges that the Bill be withdrawn—the Canadian Film and Television Association, the Canadian Book Development Association, the National Film Board of Canada—another federal agency—and the National Gallery.

With all those representations let the Government make it clear that this Bill has had it.

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● (1410)

**TRADE****SUPPORT FOR CANADA—UNITED STATES FREE TRADE AGREEMENT**

**Mr. John Oostrom (Willowdale):** Mr. Speaker, the Ottawa based Conference Board of Canada, which is a non-partisan group, is the latest organization to endorse the Prime Minister's free trade agreement. The board found that the agreement will provide a major stimulus to the Canadian economy. It found that the real gross domestic product will increase by \$9.3 billion, or 1.7 per cent by 1997; inflation will be .2 per cent lower, and employment will increase by 1 per cent.

Now that organizations and individuals have had time to study the agreement, the majority are voicing strong support for this initiative. It is ironic that the once shrill voices of the opposition Parties, and that of the Premier of Ontario, are no longer to be heard. Perhaps soon we will get their endorsement.

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**OFFICIAL LANGUAGES****COMMISSIONER'S ANNUAL REPORT—CONTROVERSY OVER WORDING**

**Mr. Ernie Epp (Thunder Bay—Nipigon):** Mr. Speaker, controversy over a phrase in the annual report of the Commissioner of Official Languages demonstrates again how sensitive questions relating to language are in Canada.

The first Commissioner of Official Languages, now a newspaper editor, has reminded us of the controversy that resulted 15 years ago from his repeating the phrase "West-mount Rhodesians". He reminds us of the lesson, "that, when

handling linguistic dynamite, one should not simultaneously juggle colourful phrases".

[*Translation*]

The Commissioner initiated a hue and cry because he deplored the tendency to promote French not by "positively asserting its own cultural vigour, but by humbling the competition". However, he did deplore also that his report gave rise to that misunderstanding, most particularly the summary which does not reflect adequately his position, in terms of the controversial sentence about the attitude of the Quebec Government towards its minority.

Mr. Speaker, it is not always easy to defend minority rights without offending the majority. It is a most tedious task.

[*English*]

Canadians hope that the Commissioner will continue to work vigorously for official language minorities while being doubly mindful of the hazards of his task.

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**PENSIONS****MASSEY CORPORATION BANKRUPTCY—PENSIONERS' LOSS OF HEALTH AND WELFARE BENEFITS**

**Mr. John Nunziata (York South—Weston):** Mr. Speaker, pensioners of the now defunct Massey Combines Corporation are being shafted, and they are as mad as hell.

The company went bankrupt and was put into receivership earlier this month. The receiver, Peat Marwick, has notified the 3,000 pensioners that their health and welfare benefits have been terminated, cut off, as of March 4, 1988. Those benefits included life insurance, dental, drug, and OHIP coverage. This is patently unfair. It is creating considerable hardship for the more than 3,000 pensioners who dedicated their lives to the company only to be put out in the cold in the middle of their retirement.

During the 1986 restructuring of Massey Ferguson Ltd. the federal Government allowed Massey Ferguson to transfer \$207 million in long term debt to the combines operation. Guarantees should have been obtained in order that the pensioners' health and welfare benefits would be protected. The Government failed to do this. The overwhelming majority of the retirees never worked for Massey Combines. They were employees of Massey Ferguson. Their pensions and health care coverage should never have been transferred to Massey Combines, a corporation that was destined to fail. The Government should not have allowed the restructuring without first protecting the workers.

I call on the federal Government and the Government of Ontario to assume responsibility for this fiasco, and to ensure that the pensioners continue to receive health care benefits that they worked for and are entitled to receive.