

S. O. 31

Surely, the present government should spend more energy preparing its long promised human rights legislation and less time on public relations exercises such as this week's conference.

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AGRICULTURE

Mr. Walter Van De Walle (St. Albert): Mr. Speaker, Canada's embargo on grain shipments to Iraq has eliminated our fifth largest export market. Canadians support the sanctions and rightly so. However, it is costing farmers hundreds of millions of dollars in lost grain sales. Farmers are paying the price.

Farm fuel prices are rapidly climbing as a result of the situation in the Middle East. This, combined with high mortgage costs, dwindling markets and low grain prices, is placing a severe economic burden on the agricultural community.

The uncertainty of the outcome of the GATT negotiations begs the question: How long will the United States and the European Common Market continue their subsidy wars? While Canadians enjoy an inexpensive food policy, farmers are paying the price.

I urge the federal and provincial governments to jointly announce at an early date new initiatives to address the plight of the farmers.

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[Translation]

TRIBUTE TO NATHALIE GIGUÈRE

Mrs. Monique Tardif (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Supply and Services): Mr. Speaker, swimmer Nathalie Giguère and her coach, Benoît Lebrun, were in the spotlight at the 1990 Athlete of the Year Gala in Quebec City. For her performance, Nathalie received the *Memoris d'or*, while her coach was named Coach of the Year.

At 17, this extraordinary swimmer from Charlesbourg won the gold medal for the 200 meter breast stroke in 1990 at the Commonwealth Games. At the present time, Nathalie is doing high-altitude training at Los Alamos, New Mexico, in preparation for the world championships in Perth, Australia.

A talented and disciplined athlete and a hard worker, Nathalie has always been thankful to those who over the years, helped her to develop this talent: her parents, her team and her coach.

Nathalie: Charlesbourg, Quebec City, the province of Quebec and Canada are proud of you and the *Memoris d'or* 1990 award which you truly deserved. Congratulations and the best of luck at the next world championships!

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[English]

BILL C-21

Mr. Bob Wood (Nipissing): Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my concern about Bill C-21, the government's unemployment insurance bill.

It seems that the government did have the last laugh on Canadians after all. I refer specifically to the free trade debate. How many times did we hear that social programs, in Canada, were a sacred trust that would not be sacrificed? How many times did we hear that they would not be included in the negotiations? Did not the Prime Minister himself publicly make reference to his mother and say he would do nothing to infringe upon our social programs?

Let us look at the government's unemployment insurance bill. With this measure the government has withdrawn all together from contributing to the UI fund. This means that it is now up to the employee and employer to make up the difference. In these times of rising unemployment, millions of Canadians who genuinely need help will have a tougher time getting it. Moreover, how long does the government think it will take the business community to claim that it is at a disadvantage because companies in the U.S. do not shoulder the same costs? Perhaps our pension funds and Old Age Security program will be the next items up for bids. If the price is right, this government has shown that it will sell anything.

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INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS COUNCIL FOR THE GREEN CROSS

Mr. Bruce Halliday (Oxford): Mr. Speaker, I would like to inform the House that an important step in protecting the environment will be taken when the