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where the climate is ideal for growing trees. This land should be planted with trees.

The National Soil Conservation Program and associated agreements with the provinces offer another opportunity to stimulate reforestation. Under these new programs highly erodible land will no longer be used for production of annual field crops. Trees could be a part of the permanent ground cover for such lands. The largest challenge and responsibility falls on individual landowners. I urge those with unproductive or erosion-prone rural lands to make a resolution for the 1990s. That resolution should be "Plant Trees".

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FINANCE

Mr. Rod Murphy (Churchill): Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak on a serious concern. We know that sometime this month the Minister of Finance is going to introduce his budget for the upcoming year. We also have been told by the same minister that he does not have the time to meet with ordinary Canadians. This year the hon. minister has chosen to prepare his budget behind closed doors surrounded only by his nearest and dearest.

The government can promise Boeing \$150 million prior to the budget but it cannot meet with ordinary Canadians. Perhaps since the minister refuses to meet and consult with the rest of us, he will simply announce in this House what he will do and what workers should do with regard to negotiating higher raises to counteract the GST. You know the GST, Madam Speaker. That is the tax on which Jean Chrétien will not give his position.

Some hon. members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Murphy: Should northern workers start bargaining for benefits to compensate for the impending loss of northern tax benefits? Should other workers be concerned about what is going to happen to UI premiums? What is going to happen to medicare and health programs across this country? When is the minister going to talk with ordinary Canadians and tell us what our future is all about?

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ABORIGINAL PEOPLES

Mr. Jack Iyerak Anawak (Nunatsiaq): Madam Speaker, the report of the Royal Commission on the Donald

Marshall case is forcing Canadians to re-assess their attitudes and examine the extent of intolerance, discrimination and prejudice in Canadian society.

Aboriginal people are still in some parts of the country confronted daily with racial prejudice. It is hard to for aboriginal people to watch television movies in which our people are slow, dumb, vicious, blood-thirsty and speak in one-syllables. It is difficult to read old books which portray aboriginal people as "primitive" and "uncivilized". The recently re-released book of Pierre Berton, *The Mysterious North* is a modern example of old attitudes. Originally published in 1956 its descriptions of aboriginal people are offensive.

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In a preface to the 1989 edition, Berton acknowledges that attitudes have changes toward the north and aboriginal people since the 1950s. While the book may be entertaining reading for most people—it won the Governor General's award—its repackaging is painful reading for aboriginal people.

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PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

Mr. Greg Thompson (Carleton—Charlotte): Madam Speaker, in the past couple of weeks we have had a couple of announcements coming out of Prince Edward Island. Both of these announcements were made for the best of reasons. They were made by two major corporations, McCain's and Irving's.

They were really announcements of how positive we are in Atlantic Canada. Both of these companies are expanding in Prince Edward Island for the very best of reasons, namely, that we can in Atlantic Canada do what we do best, do it better than any part of the world and compete on a very even and level playing field.

With these announcements nothing was done at the expense of the industry in any part of Canada nor will they endanger the industry in any other part of Canada. I am very proud of what the Irving and McCain corporations are doing in Prince Edward Island. I think as Canadians we can be very proud of the fact that we can compete on the international market.