

loosen the paper bonds which are binding the small businesses of the land.

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[Translation]

### TRADE

#### IMPORTANCE OF FREE TRADE WITH THE UNITED STATES

**Mr. Guy Ricard (Laval):** Mr. Speaker, as Canadians, we have to decide whether we want to get away from the Americans or whether we have the national will and courage to make sure that openings are provided under a trade agreement with them, those openings allowing us to exchange goods and services on a broader scale.

I sincerely think that in our present economic world, we do not really have any choice. To tell the truth, economic blocs are not a hellish scheme of the US aimed at destroying us. The world already is divided into economic blocs.

We all know about the European Community and the European Free Trade Association. We also know about the Arabian Common Market or still the Central American Common Market.

The reason why I have mentioned them is that those modern trading countries, even those which are considered less progressive than our own country, acknowledge the fact that special arrangements are the basis of any economy. Therefore, it is essential that we act quickly to conclude a mutually profitable agreement.

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### MUNICIPALITIES

#### CENTENNIAL OF VILLE-MARIE, P.Q.

**Mr. Gabriel Desjardins (Témiscamingue):** Mr. Speaker, the centennial of a municipality is always an exceptional event. Allow me therefore to draw the attention of the House to the centennial of the municipality of Ville-Marie, the main community in Témiscamingue, the cradle of northwestern Quebec.

Ville-Marie played a major role in the local history of Quebec at a time when the municipality was a strategic and major trading post.

I should like to take this opportunity to extend my best wishes to the residents of Ville-Marie and pay homage to these pioneers who, over the years, have been able to build a dynamic, warm-hearted and friendly community.

I also commend the committee members who organized the centennial celebrations and all the volunteers who did not spare any effort to ensure that this will be an unforgettable event.

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To highlight the ceremonies, Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister of Canada (Mr. Mulroney) will be in attendance on June 24, and he may be assured of a very warm welcome from the people of Témiscamingue.

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[English]

### INDUSTRY

#### ANNOUNCED CLOSURE OF ACTON, ONT., TANNERY

**Ms. Sheila Copps (Hamilton East):** Mr. Speaker, the sign at the entrance says "Welcome to Leathertown". Acton, Ontario, proudly billed itself as Canada's leather capital, that is, until the Conservative decision to lift footwear quotas spelled the end of the town's major employer, the Beardmore Tanner. After 142 years the tannery will close its doors in September citing the Government's lifting of footwear quotas as the main reason for the move. The closure will cripple Acton, laying off 20 per cent of its workforce. What was the response of the local Member and Minister involved? "The Government move will benefit Canadians".

The closure makes a mockery of the promise made by the Minister for International Trade (Mr. Kelleher) that no Canadian jobs would be lost on the footwear issue. If we cannot believe the Minister's word on shoe quotas, how can we accord him the responsibility of representing Canada in international trade talks?

I call on both Ministers to revoke this unfair decision.

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### TRADE

#### CANADA-UNITED STATES NEGOTIATIONS—IMPORTANCE TO ATLANTIC CANADA

**Mr. Lawrence I. O'Neil (Cape Breton Highlands—Canso):** Mr. Speaker, Atlantic Canadians were appalled last evening to hear the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Turner) tell them that he is against the development of an improved trading environment with the United States.

We in Atlantic Canada have much to gain from the new trading arrangements. We are right next door to the large and natural markets of the eastern United States.

Atlantic Canadians waited to learn why the Leader of the Opposition is against a new and better trade arrangement that will mean jobs. I am sure he will now respond that he is only against sitting down to work one out with the Americans. That is a bit like wanting to go to Ottawa without leaving home. That is the logic of the Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Speaker. His lack of self-confidence should not be attributed to all Canadians.