

As a result of this excellent work, St. Catharines has been chosen as the Canadian bid for the 1999 World Rowing Championships.

We are "pulling together to bring the world back to Niagara" for class A rowing.

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UNITED STATES ENTRANCE FEE

Mr. David Iftody (Provencher, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, today President Clinton introduced a budget measure that would in effect charge each and every Canadian \$1.50 U.S. or \$3.00 per car to enter the U.S.

The U.S. administration will seize Canadian dollars and use them to beef up security at the U.S.-Mexico border. Essentially, it looks to me as though the U.S. government wants to tax Canadians to solve its security problems at the Mexico border.

These measures are a violation of our agreements which allow the free movement of goods and people across our borders. This is an illegitimate tax grab by the U.S. government and an insult to Canadians who respect reciprocal cross-border freedom for Canadians and our American neighbours.

This is a further irritant to the already strained Canada-U.S. relations. It should therefore be struck down by Congress and taken off the U.S. budgetary table.

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DRUNKENNESS DEFENCE

Mr. Jim Jordan (Leeds—Grenville, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, there is real concern in the riding of Leeds—Grenville as I know there is across the nation about the recent court decision to allow extreme drunkenness as a defence against serious crime.

Residents from all walks of life are continuing to raise concern over what appears to be a serious loophole in our legal system. They are asking the justice minister to begin immediately to make the necessary revisions in law to prevent what appears to be a serious miscarriage of justice.

Constituents who have contacted me in this regard did so in the form of a petition but unfortunately it was lacking in proper form. Therefore, I am using this procedure as an alternate way of expressing their concern to the justice minister.

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[Translation]

LIBERATION OF AUSCHWITZ-BIRKENAU

Mrs. Christiane Gagnon (Quebec, BQ): Mr. Speaker, on January 18, the whole world remembered the horrors of the Second World War. That day marked the fiftieth anniversary of

the liberation of the survivors of the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp.

It cannot be too emphatically stated that this concentration camp was used by the Nazis to exterminate over a million prisoners, more than 90 per cent of whom were Jews. We want to remind this House that these tragic events are an important part of our history, and we hope that such atrocities will never occur again.

The Bloc Québécois wishes to take this opportunity to declare our solidarity with the families of these victims, and particularly to the Jewish people who suffered so much during that tragic episode in the history of mankind.

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[English]

GUN CONTROL

Mr. Lee Morrison (Swift Current—Maple Creek—Assiniboia, Ref.): Mr. Speaker, we live in a tolerant and compassionate society. It is so compassionate that Denis Lortie could steal an automatic weapon from the army, terrorize a provincial legislature, murder three strangers, wound several others and end up back on the streets in 10 years.

There are however limits to compassion. Under the justice minister's gun control proposals a farmer who neglects or refuses to register his single shot .22 could be sentenced to a year behind bars for inconveniencing the bureaucracy.

The inmates really have taken over the asylum.

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● (1410)

UNITED STATES ENTRANCE FEE

Mr. Nelson Riis (Kamloops, NDP): Mr. Speaker, I want to draw the Prime Minister's attention to the President of the United States who in a desperate effort to raise funds has decided to impose \$1.50 U.S. head tax on all Canadians visiting the United States. He is also planning to ask for \$3 U.S. for every vehicle crossing to the United States.

This flies against the tradition of an open border between Canada and the United States. It flies in the face of the free trade agreement signed by the United States.

When the Prime Minister meets with Bill Clinton later this month he should say: "Take this off the budgetary table. Canadians simply will not tolerate this poke in the eye with a sharp stick by the President of the United States".

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THE LATE JEFFREY SECTER

Mr. Barry Campbell (St. Paul's, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak of Jeffrey Sectar, a constituent of mine who was murdered last month in the Dominican Republic.