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TRADE

Mr. Larry Schneider (Regina—Wascana): Mr. Speaker, I rise today to jump into the trade debate. I quote:

Mexico—Saskatchewan's best bet for increasing trade and investment with Latin America.

Those words did not come from a Tory politician. No, in fact, they came from the Saskatchewan NDP government in a quote in today's *Regina Leader Post*. In an article entitled "Mexican opportunity fires up officials", Mr. Frank Hart, Saskatchewan's deputy minister of economic development, speaks of the Mexican entrepreneurial drive, its can-do attitude, its optimism and its commitment to improve difficult conditions. Saskatchewan's deputy minister puts Mexico at the top of the list that Saskatchewan companies should be doing business with.

Mr. Hart talks about the outstanding possibilities for Saskatchewan agriculture, agribusiness, telecommunications, oil and gas, and water treatment technology.

It is this enlightened attitude that seeks to find ways to make our economy and our system work that deserve applause. There is no doubt that NAFTA makes sense. We must continue to expand our horizons or risk being choked in our isolation.

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MARKETING BOARDS

Mr. Jim Jordan (Leeds—Grenville): Mr. Speaker, it is about one year since all parties in the House declared their support for Canadian marketing boards.

Since that time the government has softened its position to where its support is highly suspect in all areas of agriculture that operate under marketing boards.

It is time that the government firmed up its position and stated clearly and emphatically that it not only supports but will promote Canada's marketing boards at GATT. It should not entertain any thoughts of substituting tariffs for marketing boards in Canada.

CANADIAN FIGURE SKATING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Mr. Doug Fee (Red Deer): Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate all the fine athletes who competed in the Canadian Figure Skating Championships this weekend.

It was an exciting competition. We can have confidence and pride in all those chosen to represent Canada. This is especially so in the men's competition where Elvis Stojko and Kurt Browning both excelled and showed that they are ready to take on the best in the world.

Placing second had to be disappointing to Mr. Stojko but placing second to a three time world champion, Mr. Kurt Browning, is nothing to be ashamed of. There is not much that needs to be said about Kurt Browning. He has won the respect and admiration of all Canadians.

We are pleased that he has overcome his back injury and is ready once again to represent Canada. Nowhere is that pleasure more evident than in my riding where I know I can speak for everyone, especially those in Caroline, when I say: "Good luck in the world's, Kurt. We are with you all the way and we could not be more proud of you".

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EMPLOYMENT

Mr. David Dingwall (Cape Breton—East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, the rate of unemployment in my area of the country is on the rise.

In December the unemployment rate for Cape Breton Island was 23.4 per cent. The statistics for January indicate that the unemployment rate is now 26.4 per cent. To make matters worse, this government wants to penalize our unemployed by reducing their income even further. The new UI benefit rate will reduce insurable earnings from 60 per cent to 57 per cent in April 1993.

The Prime Minister is of the opinion that the recession is over. It is not over for those who reside in Cape Breton. The situation is getting worse and nothing is being done to change this.