

## S. O. 31

the loans because it is very careful about expunging accounts receivable.

The Canadian program has a poor record, to say the least: \$55 million in accounts receivable will be expunged this year because of failure to trace bad loans. In 1992-93, accounts receivable will total \$1 billion.

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[English]

## QUEBEC

**Mr. Phillip Edmonston (Chambly):** Mr. Speaker, in the July edition of *l'Actualité* editor Jean Paré writes:

"It is time to face the facts. If after 30 years of agitation for independence, nine years of *péquist* government, a referendum, and 10 years of threats, Quebecers still have not separated, it is because they do not want to."

"Very simply, Quebecers love Canada, with a secret, perhaps slightly embarrassed affection. Behind their speeches and periodic bouts of anger, they are Canadians in their hearts. If this country displeased them as much as has been made out, they would have left long ago."

These conclusions are based on a CROP poll which shows that when posed the hard question, the real question: "Do you want Quebec to remain a province within Canada or become an independent country," only 34 per cent of Quebecers opt for independence and 54 per cent choose Canada.

It is important that this House take note of these facts. They teach us that we are not wasting our time looking for the best constitutional offers we can find for Quebec and Canada as a whole.

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## THE ECONOMY

**Mrs. Louise Feltham (Wild Rose):** Mr. Speaker, the recent evidence of growth should give all Canadians confidence in the economy. Many forecasters will be revising their earlier pessimistic forecasts to put them in a range the Minister of Finance has consistently referred to.

Contrary to speculation by some analysts of a double-dip recession, the recovery has now proceeded for four consecutive quarters. The Minister of Finance has consistently forecast that a growth rate for 1992-93 would be in the area of 2 to 2.3 per cent.

We believe he is right.

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## ARMENIA AND NAGORNO-KARABAGH

**Mrs. Shirley Maheu (Saint-Laurent—Cartierville):** Mr. Speaker, the recent events in Armenia and Nagorno-Karabagh have taken a serious turn for the worse. Recently, more than 500 people have disappeared and several hundred civilians, including children, have been injured or killed, all resulting from violent attacks by Azerbaijan.

Azeri motorized battalions, reinforced by heavy artillery and armoured vehicles are reportedly positioned for a large-scale offensive against Armenia. Sources have also reported that Azerbaijan's weapons are being supplied by Turkey, a member state of NATO.

I ask the Prime Minister to communicate Canada's profound concern over Turkish intervention in this conflict, and ask him to urge President Yeltsin of Russia, who still has a significant number of troops in the area, to secure the region and prevent any further Azeri attacks against the people of Armenia or Nagorno-Karabagh.

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## OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY WEEK

**Mr. Brian O'Kurley (Elk Island):** As this week has been designated Canadian Occupational Health and Safety Week, I would like to underline how important it is for all of us to focus our attention and give priority to the occupational health and safety issues which are vital to the protection and preservation of the health of working people across Canada.

With the renewal of Canada's drug strategy, a new emphasis in employee assistance programming recognizes the increasing need to be concerned with substance abuse in the workplace. Labour Canada and Health and Welfare will be working in partnership with such organizations as the Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse and the Alliance for a Drug Free Canada to improve the ability of both business and labour to respond to a variety