

a majority of Canadians may be the realistic outcome of a well-executed communications program”.

The Conservative Government wants to keep Canadians in the dark, despite the deep concern of many communities about this issue and despite the blackmail from the United States, where a leading U.S. Congressman yesterday said that no free trade deal with Canada would be signed unless we cut back our lumber exports. Free trade on that basis would make us no more than an American colony. For that reason we oppose it strongly.

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● (1110)

### AGRICULTURE

#### HIGH CHEMICAL INPUT COSTS

**Mr. Geoff Wilson (Swift Current-Maple Creek):** Mr. Speaker, I share excerpts from a letter concerning drought assistance written to me by a farm couple in the Cabri area of southwestern Saskatchewan. They say:

It angers us to hear about how Government plans to write down debts with farm credit. There are farmers in this area, and I am sure in other areas, that are in financial difficulty because they had to have land at outrageously high prices. They never stop to think there may come a time when there would be no crop or when the price drops or when there is no market for our grain. That's all happened before.

In other words, Mr. Speaker, they ask why should the foolhardy be rewarded with a loan writedown while the prudent get to foot the bill? Why should the guy who outbid everybody else at a land auction now be bailed out by those whom he outbid?

The letter continues:

If you want to help us in a positive manner and help all farmers, try to reduce our input costs. I think the cost of chemical is a big rip-off and these companies should be investigated. I think most all farmers spend a good portion of their income on grasshopper poison in the drought area, and maybe Governments could pay for that if they want to help.

This letter is fairly representative and contains some good, sound advice. I recommend these useful and practical suggestions to the Hon. Member for Assiniboia (Mr. Gustafson), Chairman of the Task Force on Drought, and to the Hon. Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Wise).

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### YOUNG OFFENDERS ACT

#### TREATMENT OF YOUNG IMPAIRED DRIVERS

**Mr. John Oostrom (Willowdale):** Mr. Speaker, a recent Gallup Poll conducted for the federal Government has found that young people are increasing their daily intake of alcohol. Alcohol consumption has increased to 39 per cent; up from 37 per cent a year ago. Consumption has increased by 5 per cent among those aged 12 to 14, and by 23 per cent among those aged between 15 to 17.

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With new tough regulations being implemented for drinking drivers, my constituents feel that these regulations will not be equally enforced and that the Young Offenders Act will take preference. If an individual can obtain a driver's licence at the age of sixteen, then such an individual should be subject to the same penalties that adults now face. A mechanism should be implemented in order for the two Acts to complement each other. After all, the destructive force of any accident is the same.

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[Translation]

### PUBLIC SERVICE

#### LANGUAGE TRAINING PRIVATIZATION CONSEQUENCES

**Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa-Vanier):** Mr. Speaker, on May 28, 1985, the President of the Treasury Board stated before the Standing Joint Committee on Official Languages Policy and Programs that his Government was considering privatizing the Federal Public Service Language Training Program. Since then, I have received a very large and significant number of complaints from many public servants who are concerned, indeed worried, about the Conservative Government plans to privatize a program which has earned an enviable international reputation to say the least, both for its efficiency and expertise.

During the election campaign, the Conservatives bragged about developing programs to promote women employment at higher levels. By nurturing such an irresponsible idea as privatizing language training, the Government will jeopardize the jobs of 788 employees, 62.6 per cent being women. Moreover, 536 of the 788 employees are members of the teaching staff of which 59 per cent are professional women who, for the most part, have made a career of teaching.

Mr. Speaker, the Public Service Commission of Canada at present controls standards and teaching methods. But were language training to be privatized, there would no longer be any federal Government control over private firms.

Why then is the Government still bent on so-called savings...

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I am sorry to interrupt the Hon. Member, but his time has expired.

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[English]

### FINANCE

#### SALES TAX ON READY-MIX CONCRETE

**Mr. Dave Nickerson (Western Arctic):** Mr. Speaker, as a loyal government supporter, far be it from me to question the wisdom or otherwise of the recently imposed 6 per cent sales tax on ready-mix concrete, or even to query whether or not it is