

Hnatyshyn) claim in this House and to the Canadian people that the Government is able to implement the Prime Minister's trade deal without the consent of the provinces. I am sorry the Government of Canada does not share the same level of determination for implementation of other treaties and conventions. The Government has repeatedly declined to ratify conventions of the International Labour Organization, the UN body responsible for working people.

The record of the Government is terrible. We have ratified 26 of the 162 conventions of the ILO, or only 16 per cent. Once again we are able to see just where Conservative Government priorities lie. The Government refuses to improve working conditions for ordinary Canadians, claiming it cannot sign treaties that interfere with areas of provincial jurisdiction.

The Government of Canada has not signed an ILO convention since 1964. We have not signed the convention on apartheid, presumably because it deals with wines which are under provincial jurisdiction. We have not signed the convention on the working environment, the convention on accident prevention, on occupational health and safety, old age security and survivor benefits, minimum wages, paid holidays, collective bargaining, medicare, health benefits, or injury benefits, all because they come under provincial jurisdiction or are shared with the provinces.

Why does the Government want to sign the trade deal, which certainly affects provincial jurisdiction, but will not do anything for the working people of Canada, not since 1964?

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TRADE

CANADA-U.S. FREE TRADE AGREEMENT—EFFECT ON YUKON

Mr. Jim Edwards (Edmonton South): Mr. Speaker, 13 days ago I had the privilege to respond to an invitation to visit Yukon. As a result, I enjoyed superb frontier hospitality. I spent 60 hours meeting miners, workers, teachers and young people, and discussed with them in many forums the concept of free trade. Those people, like most Canadians, hunger for information on the issue and I did my utmost to provide it. I found there was a terrible lack of genuine information on the issue in Yukon and I committed myself to try to redress that lack.

The difficulty appears to be an unwillingness on the part of the territorial Government and other elected officials to provide the facts. They seem to be getting fear, fabrication and foolishness from certain sources.

I have urged the people of Yukon with whom I spoke to ask their territorial MLAs for a copy of a study commissioned by the territorial Government into the benefits of free trade. Among those benefits underlined in the study are the creation of a market of 100,000 people among Alaska, Yukon and the

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Mackenzie district of the Northwest Territories, new opportunities for trans-shipment, and lower input costs for mining.

Randolph Churchill once said to his son: "When all else fails, my son, trust the judgment of the people." The truth will prevail with the wonderful vigorous people of Yukon. They, as all other Canadians, will decide who is telling the truth.

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DISASTERS

AIR-INDIA CRASH—CALL FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF ROYAL COMMISSION OF INQUIRY

Mr. John Nunziata (York South—Weston): Mr. Speaker, the crucial Air-India investigation is another example of how the Government of Canada has bungled. We were told a few days ago by the Solicitor General (Mr. Kelleher) that there is an active, ongoing investigation into that disaster. Canadians just do not believe him. A year ago he said the same thing. On December 4, 1986, he said to the Standing Committee on Justice and Solicitor General: "There is some new evidence that gives us some hope."

The chairman of the Security Intelligence Review Committee said on November 20, 1986, one year ago, that the investigation was coming to a conclusion quite quickly. Just yesterday Mr. Atkey said: "There is a hope, and I put it no stronger than that, that the culprits will be brought to justice."

It is clear that the investigation has come to a complete standstill. It is clear that the Government has bungled that investigation. It is time that it assumed its responsibility and called a Royal Commission of Inquiry to determine all the facts surrounding this case, including the conduct of officials of the Government and whether or not they acted appropriately in the circumstances. Families of the victims feel betrayed by the Government. It has not shown the sensitivity necessary in the circumstances. The Government owes it to the families of the victims to establish a Royal Commission of Inquiry.

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THE ECONOMY

A MESSAGE FROM SANTA CLAUS

Mr. Felix Holtmann (Selkirk—Interlake): Mr. Speaker, this morning I received a letter from a personal friend of mine and I would like to share it with the rest of Canadians. It says:

Dear Felix:

As I get things ready for Christmas in Canada's sovereign north, just a couple of short lines since I wrote you three years ago.

The wife and I always watch you and your colleagues on Question Period but I think she has a crush on the Speaker. Life has sure gone smoother for me with this economy booming and the unemployment dropping. The way you guys create jobs there is a brighter smile on Canadian faces this year.