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Canada seeks a reduction in trade distorting subsidies, more access to international markets and clarifications of GATT Article XI, which permits import quotas in support of our supply management sectors, such as the dairy industry.

Also last Monday, the producer group known as Dairy Farmers of Canada launched a publicity campaign to increase consumer awareness of the GATT proceedings. Unfortunately, their television commercial has also had the effect of creating fears among producers that the government has changed its stance on supply management.

I emphasize that this is not the case. In their Toronto news release of Monday, October 15, 1990, Mr. Peter Oosterhoof, vice-president of Dairy Farmers of Canada and vice-chairman of the Ontario Milk Marketing Board stated, and I quote:

The objective of the campaign is to increase Canadians understanding of the challenges facing Canada's dairy industry, and to enlist active public support for the positions taken in international trade negotiations by the Dairy Farmers of Canada and the Canadian government.

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COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Lyle Dean MacWilliam (Okanagan—Shuswap): Mr. Speaker, the Bureau of Competition Policy announced last Friday that it intends to file an application with the competition tribunal in the matter of the acquisition by Southam Incorporated of publishing operations in British Columbia.

This decision provides firm reason to renew the call made for hearings before the Standing Committee on Culture and Communications into concentration of ownership within this and other media. The press, free, responsible and accountable, is an instrument of prime importance to all Canadians.

Because of concentration of ownership, many Canadians fear that the press will not be employed in such a way as to supply them with the full range of views required to make informed judgments. Thus, we cannot be complacent about continued concentration of ownership of the press. Concentration of media ownership is much more than a merger, an acquisition or a bottom line statement.

News and information, vital elements in making decisions, are becoming packaged, homogenized and sanitized. We are heading away from reading all the news that is fit to print toward being fed all the news that is print to fit.

THE ECONOMY

Mr. Dave Dingwall (Cape Breton—East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Nova Scotians I would like to express my profound disappointment in the economic policies of the Government of Canada.

The high interest rate policies of this government are hurting consumers from coast to coast, but in particular it is hurting those individuals involved in the resource based industries.

In addition, high interest rates have a profound negative effect on small business across this country. It is they who create the thousands of new jobs which are needed so desperately in this country. However, with high interest rates, the policies being pursued by the government opposite will only serve to shut down small business in this country.

The policy with regard to a high Canadian dollar certainly does not provide any advantages whatsoever to our Canadian manufacturing associations across this country. As a result, thousands of Canadians will be without jobs.

Finally, the GST. Why is the Canadian government putting into place the goods and services tax when we are in the midst of a first ever Canadian-made recession? Why is the government so concerned with seeing its way on the goods and services tax, which it knows will fuel inflation and cost jobs. In other words, it will be extremely negative for the Canadian economy.

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LITERACY

Mr. Ken James (Sarnia—Lambton): Mr. Speaker, the eradication of illiteracy in Canada must be an unabridged priority of our government.

Everyone in Canada pays the price of illiteracy, including lost opportunities, diminished effectiveness, alienation and low self-esteem. The nation as a whole pays because we are denied the fullest participation and productivity of our citizens.

Today there is a growing appreciation that a nation's most important resource is its people. For it is Canadians, their collective ingenuity, knowledge, skills and ambition which will determine Canada's future economic growth.