

S. O. 31

[Translation]

CANADA-U.S. AGREEMENT ON AIR QUALITY

Mr. Jean-Guy Guilbault (Drummond): Mr. Speaker, the Canada-U.S. agreement on air quality is the result of the very special relationship between Messrs. Reagan, Mulroney and Bush.

Since the two heads of State met in March 1985, striking progress has been achieved by this government with respect to pollution. Thanks to the co-operation of the federal government, provincial governments, industry and environmental groups, the Canadian program to control acid rain was successfully implemented.

The signing of the important Canada-U.S. agreement on air quality is a milestone in the history of environmental protection. This bilateral agreement establishes a framework for Canada and the United States to deal effectively with present and future air pollution problems involving both countries.

Mr. Speaker, this historic agreement sets forth clearly and concisely the commitment of both governments to dealing with the problem of air pollution.

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[English]

CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION

Mrs. Sheila Finestone (Mount Royal): Mr. Speaker, today a country is defined by its communications, by how and what it communicates. This distinguishes us on the global map. In this light, the CBC has a unique and dramatic role to play, providing the cross-country links that truly connect and reflect all of Canada and all Canadians from sea to sea to sea. With the exploding spectrum of program choices available all around us, today, more than ever, we must have that distinctive Canadian voice.

The CBC is more than a bottom line on a balance sheet. CBC is measured in terms of how it reflects local ideas and national ideals. Canada is rooted in the realities of its small local communities and its regions through their singers and performers, their values and stories. This then becomes Canada's national voice.

The CBC is critically wounded in its ability to ensure the development of Canada's national personality by the Conservative Party's unconscionable cuts to the CBC. This is why 11 members of the national Liberal caucus care enough to express their views today at the CRTC hearings on why a strong, local, regional and national CBC is needed now more than ever. It is a priority at this sensitive juncture in our political history as a nation.

The government should review its support for our national public broadcaster. Eleven cents per Canadian per day is very little for the cost of a bilingual radio and TV service across this land. I think it is worth at least that much to ensure that the hearts, minds and attitudes of our children and our future are that as distinct Canadians on the world map.

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BANK OF CANADA

Mr. Rod Murphy (Churchill): Mr. Speaker, it has been said in many commentaries that the middle class is dying in Canada. I think there is a real understanding now as to why that is happening. Last night, when he was before the Commons finance committee, the Governor of the Bank of Canada defended his salary and increases for his senior officials, saying that they needed the money to attract top people. He himself earns a salary which is between \$168,000 and \$253,000 a year. That is an \$85,000 difference between the top and the bottom level.

How can Canadians expect any fairness if the people who earn the most in our society have deliberately set up rules supported by the present Conservative government, often implemented in the first place by previous Liberal governments, which create secrecy around the salaries which are much higher than those of ordinary Canadians? The secrecy is not there to defend a postal clerk who might be earning between \$23,000 and \$25,000 or a clerk in the federal government who might be earning between \$23,000 and \$26,000. This secrecy is set there to defend the deputy ministers, the political appointees and those who give advice to this government.

It is time to defend all Canadians. Make all government salaries public for all Canadians.