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were among the causes of diminishing sales. The problem was brought to the attention of the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson) on several occasions.

Many of my constituents sent me letters which I then transmitted to the Minister of Finance. In their letters, they mentioned the number of jobs that had already been lost, and wondered whether they would be next. Well, now it has happened. Those jobs are lost.

Mr. Speaker, I hope the new Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency will be able to provide some kind of solution to deal with the loss of these jobs in the town of Richibouctou.

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[English]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

CANADA-UNITED STATES RELATIONS—WINDSOR INTERNATIONAL FREEDOM FESTIVAL

Mr. Howard McCurdy (Windsor—Walkerville): Mr. Speaker, today begins the twenty-ninth annual celebration of the International Freedom Festival in Windsor. It will culminate in the joint observation of the Freedom Days, July 1 and July 4, as approved by resolution in this House. No Canadian city has such an intimate relationship with its American cousins, and that may frequently be taken literally, than does the City of Windsor.

We are as likely to cheer the Detroit Red Wings and the Tigers as the Maple Leafs or the Blue Jays. Yet there are no people so jealous of our Canadianism, so sharply aware of this country's unique democratic values, or who share a deeper understanding of America than we.

It is as equals that we join in celebration of a special relationship, a special relationship that is often tested and taken too much for granted by our neighbours, and perhaps even by ourselves.

This largest of international festivals in the words welcomes you, Mr. Speaker. Come and see the brilliant lights of freedom light up the sky of Detroit and Windsor, and hear the mighty roar of two free and separate peoples as they pledge their friendship.

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TAX REFORM

WHITE PAPER—PROVISIONS AFFECTING SENIOR CITIZENS

Mrs. Mary Collins (Capilano): Mr. Speaker, we have all recognized that tax reform is essential to bring fairness and equity into the tax system and to devise a system which will

provide a greater sense of opportunity and encourage competitiveness. But of particular concern to many of us is the financial situation of our senior citizens—Canadians who have contributed so much to our community and who deserve a sense of financial peace and security in their retirement years.

So among the many areas that I would select for compliments in the tax reform package, it is the positive impact on our seniors that I particularly applaud. As a result of tax reform nine out of ten Canadians 65 years of age and over will pay less federal tax in 1988. A typical elderly married couple with \$25,000 in income will pay about \$650 less.

By converting exemptions into tax credits and by lowering the tax levels this change will mean that the vast majority of Canadians will pay less income tax. Indeed, 250,000 more senior citizens will no longer pay any federal income tax.

That is fairness. That is equity. That is what the actions of this Government mean for the senior citizens of Canada.

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CANADA POST CORPORATION

LETTER CARRIERS' STRIKE—REPORTED REPLACEMENT OF INSIDE WORKERS IN HAMILTON

Ms. Sheila Copps (Hamilton East): Mr. Speaker, the very problem with this budget and the very problem with this Government as stated by the Hon. Member for Capilano (Mrs. Collins) and the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson) is that they talk about a "typical" elderly couple earning \$25,000 a year. Well, I do not know how many typical elderly couples in Capilano are earning \$25,000 per year, but it is certainly not the typical picture of an elderly couple in Hamilton. I cannot believe that the Government would introduce such a budget.

● (1110)

However, I wanted to speak today on the issue of the postal strike, in particular the fact that the Minister responsible for superboxes suggested last week that if there were any violation of a collective agreement, it should be brought immediately to his attention.

I should like to bring to his attention a violation of the collective agreement in Hamilton where the Post Office is bringing in Kelly girls to replace inside workers and telling those inside workers that, if they do not like it, they can file a grievance or they can walk out.

It is direct provocation. It is an attempt by the Government, through the corporation, actually to create a situation which is going to lead to increased violence.

I ask the Minister to investigate this violation of the collective agreement of inside workers in the city of Hamilton.