

Canada must develop coherent policies which link international human rights to aid trade and refugee determinations. The parliamentary subcommittee on international human rights must be given every support necessary to achieve this important objective in order that legitimate concerns for international human rights abuses may be addressed.

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NATIONAL ENERGY BOARD

Mr. Lee Richardson (Calgary Southeast): Mr. Speaker, in a decision on November 20 the National Energy Board denied four applications for export of Canadian gas into United States markets. No reasons have yet been given by the board for this decision.

Western gas producers are rightly concerned that the National Energy Board appears to be adopting an inappropriate level of involvement in a contracting process between willing buyers and willing sellers.

This decision is sending unfavourable signals to United States buyers of Canadian gas, casting a shadow of uncertainty over many contracts and negotiations currently in progress in the industry and generally creating the impression on instability in the Canadian gas supply.

There is an obvious need for clarification. National Energy Board decisions appear to be contrary to both the spirit and the letter of the free trade agreement in that they prejudice pricing arrangements and imply there is a minimum price for U.S. buyers which does not exist for Canadian buyers.

As a result the National Energy Board should be encouraged to release the reasons for its decisions as quickly as possible.

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STATUS OF WOMEN

Ms. Dawn Black (New Westminster—Burnaby): Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Glenda Simms on her appointment to the presidency of the Canadian Advisory Council on the Status of Women. This is an historically significant occasion and I am very proud to mark it here today.

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Dr. Simms is a well-known activist and a moving speaker. She is the former president of the Congress of Black Women and involved with the National Organization of Immigrant and Visible Minority Women.

She has shown herself to be committed to working hard to break the oppression of women of all economic classes, races and sexual orientation. Her extensive involvement in a variety of issues of concern to women such as housing, employment equity, and native education, is impressive. It gives her a background of knowledge that will serve her well in dealing with the many areas of research undertaken by the council.

Her appointment will bring a valuable perspective, skills, experience, vision and vitality to the advisory council. The New Democratic Party wishes her well, as I am sure do all members of this House today.

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EMPLOYMENT

Mr. Ron MacDonald (Dartmouth): Mr. Speaker, as I have indicated in the past, I am proud to represent the communities of north and east Preston and Cherrybrook, one of the largest native black communities in Canada. They have contributed greatly to the development of this area, the province of Nova Scotia and their country.

However, even after 200 years, their quest for equality is still a dream.

• (1410)

On September 21 I released a major survey entitled *Education and Income in the Preston and Cherrybrook Area*. The study's conclusions were startling. For instance, the income for young black males was fully 42 per cent less than that of their white counterparts.

I sent a copy of this report to the Minister of Employment and Immigration and requested that she initiate discussions on implementing real solutions to these long-standing and unacceptable problems. Despite my repeated requests to senior officials and to the minister herself, no action has yet been taken.

I therefore call upon the minister once again to urgently review this document and initiate the dialogue necessary so that 1989 will be the year we initiated an end to inequality and discrimination in Canada's black communities.