

S.O. 21

Unfortunately, there is a very real lack of competition in the market-place. Prices rise, and sometimes fall, in unison and without explanation. Where is the consumers' power to regulate the market-place if in fact they have no real choice? Perhaps there are indeed too few genuine competitors as a result of recent takeovers.

Perhaps some of the problem lies with Petro-Canada which seems to follow the market when there is a downward trend but, according to reports, leads the market when there is an upward trend. Many of my constituents believe that the time has come for the Government to get rid of Petro-Canada. They believe an aggressive investor-owned company would mean more genuine competition in the market-place and hence lower gas prices.

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NUCLEAR ENERGY

CALL FOR INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS

Hon. Chas. L. Caccia (Davenport): As you know, Mr. Speaker, there are some 374 nuclear reactors in the world in 26 different nations. The International Atomic Energy Agency has virtually no muscle or power to implement safety measures in order to protect human health. Recent events require intervention on a global scale in order to protect human health from any possibility of similar incidents occurring.

Therefore, I once again call on the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Mr. Epp) and the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Clark) to take an initiative in the name of Canada, and all the 26 nations which have nuclear reactors within their boundaries, to establish, first, international standards—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Sixty seconds.

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THE ECONOMY

REDUCTION IN INTEREST RATES

Mr. Jim Jepson (London East): Mr. Speaker, the gears in the market-place are really turning now because interest rates are going down fast. While low interest rates make the economy work, they are also a sign that people have confidence in the Government and in the productivity of their investments. The previous Liberal Government policies were responsible for a prime business rate of almost 23 per cent in 1981. When you compare that to a current prime rate of 10.5 per cent, it is obvious that the Conservative economic agenda is right on target.

There is now no reason for home owners to give up their homes because of unaffordable mortgage payments. Rates of

over 20 per cent under the Liberals have now fallen to close to 10 per cent, and are still dropping steadily.

While the central bank rate has been going down, it is clear that the chartered banks do not want to pass this on to borrowers as quickly as they pass on increases. Consumer and business credit markets depend on a competitive environment and the Government should take steps to see that our banks pass on these decreases and not skim off added profits at the expense of Canadians.

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EMPLOYMENT

LEVEL OF FUNDING FOR NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

Mr. Neil Young (Beaches): Mr. Speaker, the Government has decided that part of its famous "jobs, jobs, jobs" strategy will be to cut funding for summer students who could be hired by many non-profit groups which in previous years qualified for job creation money. Over 60 non-profit organizations in Toronto, which received wage subsidies under the Challenge '85 Program last year, will not get funding this year. Planning for programs and services those agencies provide has been wasted because it is too late for them to seek funding elsewhere.

● (1410)

What is involved is a reduction in the amount of money spent in the program and a shift from non-profit organizations, such as day camps for children, to profit-making enterprises.

According to a report in *The Globe and Mail*, two of the companies involved are Magna International and Bell Canada. Is this called helping those who need it least? This is just another example of the Conservatives blindly following ideology at the expense of average Canadians, in this case young workers and the recipients of the services of non-profit organizations.

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IMMIGRATION

CALL FOR INCREASED LEVELS

Mr. Jack Scowen (Mackenzie): Mr. Speaker, it appears obvious that many of Canada's present economic problems are related to its vast size and, in particular, to our small population. We rely on exports for our lumber, fish, mining, and agricultural products to such an extent that we often get caught in a buyer's market where we must produce below costs.

Think of the difference if we consumed most of our own resources. What we need is an influx of people such as we had