

I am thinking of 4-H clubs and 4-H delegates are here from all across Canada participating in a citizenship program. The theme of their week in Ottawa is unity.

On behalf of all members of Parliament, I would like to pledge that we will do our best to ensure that they, when they have an opportunity to participate as leaders in the future, will have the same united Canada to live in that we have today.

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[Translation]

SENIOR EXECUTIVE SALARIES AT PETRO-CANADA

Mr. Marcel Prud'homme (Saint-Denis): Mr. Speaker, last week, the government announced a 37 cent monthly increase in old age security benefits. The minister said in the House that in Canada, and that includes Montreal, as long as people have to fight to keep their jobs, as long as workers accept wage cuts to save their jobs and as long as children need assistance, he would maintain the same policy with respect to senior citizens.

Today, in *La Presse*, Michel Girard mentioned salaries totalling \$2,038 million for five directors of Petro-Canada. In 1991, this company registered a loss of \$598 million, and shareholders saw the value of their shares drop by 37 per cent. What do we see today? We see these senior executives, these so-called big bosses, being paid all kinds of money in the way of salaries, and on top of that, they get \$85,000 to pay for membership in private or social clubs and pay the fees of their financial advisers, while they get other perks as well at rock-bottom rates.

The government should treat the heads of all institutions the same. If we parliamentarians are asked to make a sacrifice, let the corporate bosses do the same and set an example to the rest of the country!

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[English]

PRINTING INDUSTRY

Ms. Joy Langan (Mission—Coquitlam): Mr. Speaker, since the Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement went into effect, U.S. Customs has routinely been harassing Canadian printers when their products cross the border

insisting that "made-in-Canada" be prominently displayed.

Yet, U.S. printed materials meet no such requirement when crossing into Canada. On March 30, the Minister for International Trade, in response to a question on this matter, said: "One thing we have to be conscious of here is that Customs requirements work both ways".

He went on to say: "There are a number of our printing companies that are endeavouring to get into the United States". The minister clearly has no understanding of this, Canada's fifth largest industry, that is being decimated by the free trade deal and that it is being harassed at the border.

At the very least, the minister must insist on equal application of labelling laws for all printed material crossing our border in both directions.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

POVERTY

Ms. Sheila Copps (Hamilton East): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Acting Prime Minister.

Seven and a half years of Tory policy have created the largest number of poor people in Canada's history. In metro Toronto, the welfare rolls have increased by 40 per cent in one year. In Edmonton, there is a 28 per cent increase; in Winnipeg, a 53 per cent increase. In Montreal, the welfare rolls have increased by 14 per cent and in Halifax by 15 per cent.

I ask the Acting Prime Minister: How can provinces and municipalities meet their obligations to the poor when the federal government continues to cut back on transfer payments?

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member is wrong when she suggests that we are cutting back on transfer payments. Transfer payments are, in fact, increasing. As a matter of fact, transfer payments have grown from a figure of \$25.6 billion in 1984-85 to \$37 billion in the year just past and to \$39 billion in the current fiscal year.