

ment invited experts on human rights matters to meet in Ottawa this year.

Many non-governmental organizations have been actively preparing for this conference. These organizations have developed and possess valuable expertise which could be of considerable benefit to the Canadian policymakers. However, the present Government, which said it places great stock in the consultative process, has done very little to ensure meaningful participation by the various NGOs in the formulation of the Canadian delegation's position. The Subcommittee on Human Rights of the Standing Committee on External Affairs held one meeting on eastern Europe, a meeting that was hastily organized and poorly publicized, to receive briefs from the various NGOs. That is hardly adequate preparation for a conference as important as this one.

The promotion of human rights warrants a process through which the concerns of all Canadians would truly be represented. Indeed, this consultative process also requires a permanent forum to monitor and publicize compliance with the human rights provisions of the Final Act. The former Liberal Government was fervently committed to the protection of human rights, not just in Canada but all over the world. The present Government would do well to emulate the distinguished Liberal record.

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## NATIONAL HERITAGE

### PRESERVATION OF HISTORIC BUILDINGS

**Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North):** Mr. Speaker, heritage groups throughout the country are looking to the federal Budget, which is to be announced on May 23, for some indication that the preservation of our past in the form of the protection of the buildings and communities of early Canada will be assisted by tax changes, thus making it possible to rehabilitate these buildings and communities.

The city of Winnipeg, the city in which I grew up, contains a downtown commercial area with examples of stone and brick buildings that have been the focus of many restoration efforts. Perhaps less well known are the many examples of warehouse buildings which reflect Winnipeg's role in the opening of the West during the pre-First World War period. These buildings are now being celebrated by the Heritage Winnipeg annual Heritage Preservation Awards which were presented in February.

Given this increasing interest in our past and in our environment, organizations such as Heritage Canada are once again asking the Government to consider renovation as a means of stimulating our construction industry while preserving many of our finest buildings. The Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson) has every opportunity to give them the assistance they deserve.

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### INDUSTRY

#### PETROCHEMICAL INDUSTRY—CREATION OF EMPLOYMENT

**Mr. Ken James (Sarnia-Lambton):** Mr. Speaker, Canada's petrochemical industry represents an important and vital part of the economy. Over 200,000 Canadians are directly or indirectly employed by the industry, and in my riding of Sarnia-Lambton nearly 10,000 people are employed by the petrochemical industry.

The success of the petrochemical industry demonstrates Canada's potential in world energy markets. The Western Accord, signed in the new spirit of federal-provincial co-operation, not only demonstrates the Government's commitment to the industry but also fuels desperately needed new confidence in the energy sector. The industry can play an even greater role in the creation of jobs for Canadians.

This spirit of renewed hope and enthusiasm is clearly evident in the unemployment figures for Sarnia released last week. The number of people collecting UIC benefits decreased in April to 11.4 per cent, a decrease of nearly 1 per cent from February, 1985. Undoubtedly we will continue to see a positive seasonal adjustment to the unemployment rate as the positive effects of the Western Accord filter through the system.

\* \* \*

● (1410)

[Translation]

### HISTORIC EVENTS

#### BATTLE OF BATOCHÉ CENTENNIAL

**Mr. Gerry St. Germain (Mission-Port Moody):** Mr. Speaker, we have just been celebrating the centennial of the Battle of Batoché in Saskatchewan, in which the Western Métis opposed the central government's troops. That fight for freedom, under the leadership of Louis Riel, is the symbol of an ongoing fight for the safeguard of the rights of minorities in Canada, and the safeguard of the respect for the various Canadian regions, especially Western Canada.

[English]

It is our duty to ensure that justice is done in our time. Louis Riel was a man who sought justice in his own time, not only for his own people, the Métis, but also for all the native people of our country. I wish to salute and thank him for fighting for justice for western Canadians and minority groups.

May we have the courage of our convictions to continue Riel's search for freedom, justice, and respect for all Canadians.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!