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federal Government's "get on with it" approach to cleaning up the environment. More progress has been made by this Government in attacking the problems of the environment within the last two and one-half years than was made in a decade of Liberal administration. The Minister of the Environment (Mr. McMillan) should be commended accordingly.

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ABORIGINAL RIGHTS

CALL FOR ENTRENCHMENT IN CONSTITUTION

Hon. Warren Allmand (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce—Lachine East): Mr. Speaker, some Canadians are asking what aboriginal rights are and why they should be recognized. Simply put, aboriginal rights are all those rights held by Indians, Inuit, and Métis which they possessed and exercised for centuries in this land before the Europeans came to this continent.

Aboriginal rights include not only certain lands and resources, but also social and cultural institutions, laws, and forms of self-government. If these rights existed before the Europeans came and they were never given up by the aboriginal peoples, then they still exist and, in justice, they must be recognized by all of us. The First Ministers' Conference scheduled for March 26 must also recognize these rights and entrench them in the Canadian Constitution.

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● (1410)

TRADE

CANADA-UNITED STATES NEGOTIATIONS—FIRST MINISTERS' CONFERENCE

Mrs. Mary Collins (Capilano): Mr. Speaker, last evening's meeting of First Ministers about the trade talks with the United States was an important step forward in this historic process, and an outstanding example of how our Prime Minister's (Mr. Mulroney) efforts at consultation and co-operation are bringing about a new era of national reconciliation.

As the Premiers become more involved and aware of the benefits that such an agreement will bring to each region of the country, the safeguards to be included, and the tremendous opportunities and encouragement it will provide for Canada to become world class in the provision of goods and services, they will surely see and share the positive attitude of British Columbia's Premier Bill Vander Zalm.

As Mr. Vander Zalm said last night, he thought the talks were coming along extremely well, and that our chief trade negotiator, Simon Reisman, was very forthright and fantastic.

Bill, I agree wholeheartedly with you that we will get an agreement by the end of the year and that it will be great for Canada. You can count on the support of British Columbia Members of Parliament to ensure that it will be particularly great for British Columbia. And, Bill, you are fantastic too.

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PEACE

GIRL GUIDES' ANTI-WAR PLEA

Mr. Simon de Jong (Regina East): Mr. Speaker, recently I received 30 letters from the Sixty-Sixth Girl Guide Group in Regina. I received pictures of smiling suns and flowers. I received pictures of bombs with large Xs through them, on which was written: "No more war. Peace, please". The children were asking me not to drop a bomb on them and not to start a war.

The message is very clear. The children of our country want to live in peace. They do not want Governments to endanger their lives and the lives of their loved ones.

On their behalf I urge the Government not to be timid in the pursuit of peace and to seize this historic opportunity to initiate an independent policy that gives peace a chance. They want to live their lives in a world of peace. I urge the Government to take heed of the voices of the children not only of this country but of the world. Indeed, give peace a chance.

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MEDICAL CARE

OPPOSITION TO PROPOSED ALBERTA LEGISLATION

Ms. Sheila Copps (Hamilton East): Mr. Speaker, I am holding a copy of Bill 14 from the Legislative Assembly of Alberta which is an insidious attempt to break down medicare. I want the federal Minister of National Health and Welfare (Mr. Epp) who is in the House today to send a direct message to the Minister of Health in Alberta telling him that we will not sell out our medicare system.

Bill 14 violates the principle of universality and the principle of comprehensiveness, the principles that the previous Liberal Government fought for to make sure that the Canada Health Act was available to all Canadians. Every medical procedure should be available for every Canadian at no cost, with no private insurance.

I urge the Minister to send a very clear message to the Legislature of Alberta that Bill 14 is a violation of the Canada Health Act and must be withdrawn immediately, or there should be penalties against the Province of Alberta.