

This facility is the only one of its kind in western Canada. As such, there is a significant demand for such a post-secondary institute in greater Victoria.

Given the fact that Royal Roads Military College is a national resource and a much valued one in western Canada, and given the need for this facility adjacent to our defence establishments on the west coast, I strongly believe it would be a great error to proceed with any decision to close or erode the programs at Royal Roads.

I implore the Associate Minister of National Defence to put the concerns and anxieties of my constituents and other residents of the area to rest by stating that Royal Roads will have a safe and productive future in Victoria.

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PEARSON INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Mr. Don Blenkarn (Mississauga South): Mr. Speaker, the environmental assessment report for the Vancouver airport took seven months. The environmental assessment at Pearson International Airport, by the time it is received by the Ministry of Transport, will have taken one year from the end of hearings to delivery of the report.

These time frames are ridiculous. If we are going to have environmental assessments, and I believe we must, then the Minister of the Environment should introduce legislation immediately to provide for the expeditious hearing of environmental concerns.

Otherwise, the whole concept of environmental hearings will soon become abhorrent to the public and the concept of environmental protection hearings will not be accepted because it prevents its development.

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[Translation]

LINGUISTIC MINORITIES

Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa—Vanier): Mr. Speaker, I have a question. Who speaks on behalf of language minorities in the federal cabinet? Who defends the interests of minority language groups in the country today?

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We know the Secretary of State is ill, and we hope he will get well soon. But my question still is: Who defends the interests of language minorities in cabinet, at this time?

We know there will be a 10 per cent cutback in programs involved in language teaching and promotion across Canada. Again, the question is: Who will speak for and defend the interests of anglophone minority groups inside Quebec and francophones outside Quebec? The question is: Did the Prime Minister, who never met any of the groups since 1984, have the courage or the will to meet with these groups? I want to ask him here and now: Will you keep your word, Prime Minister? In April 1992, you promised you would meet these groups. Will you meet them soon to deal with a problem that has been waiting too long for a solution?

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[English]

TRADE

Mr. Felix Holtmann (Portage—Interlake): Mr. Speaker, the free trade agreement has resulted in a tremendous increase of trade between Canada and the United States to the point that we are becoming the net benefactor.

Now, before the North American free trade agreement is announced there is a company in Leamington, Ontario—I am glad you are sitting down, Mr. Speaker—that is selling cactus to Mexico. Imagine, selling cactus to Mexico. It employs hundreds of Canadians.

Who does not believe in the Canadian ability to manufacture and export all over the world? Only those opposite. They will now be pricked into realizing that the fact of the matter is that cactus to Mexico is only the beginning of the North American free trade agreement.

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PROPERTY TAX REFORM

Mr. Sergio Marchi (York West): Mr. Speaker, the Ontario NDP government is always professing to be the party of reform and the party of the people. However, Torontonians were given a rude awakening today when they learned that the NDP government at Queen's Park