

[Translation]

FREE TRADE**JOB CREATION**

Mrs. Gabrielle Bertrand (Brome—Missisquoi): Mr. Speaker, during the last elections, my Liberal opponent travelled around the constituency claiming everywhere and on every forum that free trade would have nothing worthwhile, and that it would be detrimental to Brome—Missisquoi. Not only was he completely wrong, but in so doing he insulted the hundred or so entrepreneurs in my constituency who show remarkable dynamism. Indeed, between 1984 and 1988, more than \$1 billion were invested in Brome—Missisquoi; 1,600 permanent jobs and 1,400 temporary ones were created. In our area, we are not afraid of free trade; in our area, we have confidence in the future. As proof of what I said, two weeks ago Dominion Textiles, a supposedly vulnerable company, announced the creation of 200 new jobs in Magog. Yesterday, General Electric announced a \$40 million investment, the creation of 210 new jobs and the consolidation of 150 jobs. This means 560 jobs over two weeks for Brome—Missisquoi! The Leader of the Opposition may call that marginal, but to me this involves the future of young people in my constituency and I feel this is excellent news.

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MINES AND MINING**INVESTMENT BY VAL D'OR COMPANY IN UNITED STATES**

Mr. Guy St-Julien (Abitibi): Mr. Speaker, Val-d'Or's Société Espalau is investing in the United States and, through Forage Moderne, it has just opened a new American branch plant which will operate under the name of Modern International Inc. This company will be carrying out exploratory drilling in the United States, mainly in Nevada. It expects to begin work as early as February 1989.

Seventy per cent of Modern International shares will be held by the firm Forage Moderne of Val-d'Or. Through this investment it will gain access to a new market in a region where mining exploration is at its peak.

That, Mr. Speaker, is the kind of initiative taken by far-sighted Abitibi businessmen in the context of free trade.

[English]

MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS**SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANTS**

Mr. Mac Harb (Ottawa Centre): Mr. Speaker, right now, in almost every municipality in eastern Ontario and across Canada, city officials are being faced with rapidly deteriorating municipal infrastructures. The capital costs involved for adequate rehabilitation are well beyond the capacity of any local government.

Sewage treatment plants need millions of dollars to upgrade them to an acceptable capacity level. In eastern Ontario alone, 38 plants fail to meet provincial standards, often resulting in raw sewage being discharged directly into our rivers. This type of pollution is an environmental crime and it has to stop.

The federal Government must co-operate with the provincial and municipal Governments and pay its share of these costs. I urge the House to act swiftly on this matter.

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CHILDREN**PLIGHT OF POOR CHILDREN**

Ms. Dawn Black (New Westminster—Burnaby): Mr. Speaker, Christmas is a time of good food, family, and friends. At Christmas we indulge our loved ones, especially our children.

How sad that this Christmas over one million children in impoverished families will be disappointed. How ironic that, in a country as rich as ours, one out of every six children is denied proper nutrition, housing, and clothing. We allow the potential of all of these children to be jeopardized by a miserly and outdated attitude towards social policy.

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The Child Poverty Action Group tells us that over 300,000 children in Ontario, our richest province, are poor. In my own province of British Columbia 126,300 children are disadvantaged, much higher than the national average, and they are going to school hungry.

The National Council on Welfare warns us that the federal Government is systematically cutting all child benefits by 3 per cent a year.