

in this form of sport. Needless to say, as Canadians we are all very proud of Gaétan Boucher's performance especially the people of Saint-Hubert where he resides. Quite recently, just a few months ago, the Gaétan Boucher Arena was built in Saint-Hubert to underline the sportsmanship of this athlete and the great things he is doing for amateur sports.

I wish to say, Mr. Speaker, that I am personally very happy about this young athlete's achievement and I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate him.

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[English]

TOURISM

EFFECT OF TAXATION

Mr. W. C. Scott (Victoria-Haliburton): Mr. Speaker, on February 3 a Canadian, now residing in Florida, had his letter to *The Toronto Star* published. It, in great detail, described one of the key reasons the tourism industry in Canada continues to struggle. Due to government taxation, a gallon of gasoline sells for \$2.30 in Windsor, Ontario, and just across the border it sells for \$1.40 Canadian. This is a 65 per cent difference. Motel accommodation in Canada is almost double the cost just across the border. Alcoholic beverages in the United States are allowed to be sold competitively and are not taxed at an 80 per cent level, as they are here. Anyone who has ever been across the border also knows that restaurant meals and groceries sell for about half of what they do in Canada.

It is of vital importance that the Government realize that advertising campaigns and promotions, and even a bonus on the U.S. dollar, cannot undo the damage done by the Government's taxation policies. They are driving away both U.S. and Canadian tourists and ruining the tourism industry in Canada.

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VIA RAIL

CALL FOR REOPENING OF EDMONTON-VANCOUVER SERVICE

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops-Shuswap): Mr. Speaker, recently the Minister of Transport (Mr. Axworthy) recognized that an important link in the Via Rail network across Canada was that between Winnipeg and Edmonton, and announced the reopening of that particular portion. What is yet to be reopened, of course, is the link between Edmonton, Jasper, the North Thompson Valley, and the City of Vancouver, linking together one of the most important scenic potentials in western Canada. Unquestionably, Mr. Speaker, this has great tourist potential. It provides the ability to travel through one of the most spectacular parts of the world when it comes to natural beauty and pristine natural environments.

Considering Expo 86 is in the offing, and that 12 to 18 months of pre-planning are required in order to organize overseas tour packages, on behalf of the New Democratic Party I would urge the Minister of Transport to reopen the

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part of the Via western network linking the City of Edmonton with the City of Vancouver in order to allow the proper development, not only of the tourist potential of the western cordillera, but also to provide much needed services for the North Thompson Valley by the Via Rail system.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

EMPLOYMENT

SPECIAL EMPLOYMENT INITIATIVES PROGRAM—REQUEST FOR LIST OF APPROVED PROJECTS

Hon. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the fast tracking Minister of Employment and Immigration who, I suspect, was suffering from a little jet lag yesterday, which is the only way to explain some of the incredible statements he made in this House. Given the fact that on January 21, 1983, in reply to a question by my colleague, the Hon. Member for Rosedale, the then Minister of Economic Development indicated that 400 projects had been approved under the Special Employment Initiatives Program, and given the fact that in November of last year, in the Standing Committee on Labour, Manpower and Immigration, we were told that 844 programs had been approved under this Special Employment Initiatives Program for a cost of \$138 million, can the Minister tell the House why he is not able to make that list available to the House? Could it be that it has been laundered in the back rooms of the Prime Minister's Office?

Hon. John Roberts (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, the answer to the second part of the Hon. Member's question is no. The answer to the first part of his question is that the request was put to us in terms of a list on a constituency by constituency basis. That was not the basis on which projects were approved and it, therefore, takes a considerable amount of time to compile. As I told the Hon. Members in the House yesterday, I will endeavour to have that list before the House as quickly as possible—I expect by next Monday, perhaps a little earlier, if I am able.

Mr. McGrath: Mr. Speaker, would the Minister make available to the House the unexpurgated list which was referred to last November? We will figure out the constituencies.

REGIONAL MINISTERIAL INPUT

Hon. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): I would like to ask the Minister, Mr. Speaker, why is it that this program only has input from regional Ministers, whereas the other four streams have input not only from Ministers and Members of Parliament, but from the public? Can the Minister tell us what