

EXTENSION OF REMARKS
BY THE HONORABLE LES AuCOIN
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Mr. Speaker, today marks the first anniversary of Reaganomics. The impact of that economic policy upon Oregonians has been devastating.

The forest products industry in the Northwest has been particularly hard hit. I know most of my colleagues are aware of the fact that -- for roughly the past year -- 50 percent of the sawmill workers in Oregon have been either off the job or are working short or curtailed shifts.

But what does that mean in human terms? What has the depression in Oregon meant to the men, women and children who have had to endure the full force of this Administration's misguided economic policy?

Last spring, Ed Weeks, an assistant professor at the University of Oregon, presented a paper detailing the effects of mill closures on communities in Oregon.

Weeks reported a strong and direct correlation between unemployment in timber dependent communities and reported cases of child abuse and alcohol consumption. The report details what all of us know to be true. Stress created by economic calamity results in erratic and harmful behavior.

Supporters of our current economic policy talk a lot about the need for less government spending -- about fewer misallocations of resources -- about getting the government off the backs of the people.

But what kind of policy is it that leads to more unemployment, more alcoholism and more child abuse? I call it harsh and unfair and unwise. As we commemorate this first year of Reaganomics, let's keep in mind those people who have suffered so badly from its enactment.