

S.O. 22

AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 2 p.m.

STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S.O. 22

[Translation]

INDUSTRY

REQUEST THAT GOVERNMENT SEEK SOLUTIONS TO PROTECT
GULF REFINERY JOBS IN MONTREAL EAST

Mr. Jean-Claude Malépart (Montreal-Sainte-Marie): Mr. Speaker, we are all aware of the difficult situation in Montreal East, and I must say that ever since the Montreal East Survival Committee was set up on October 15, it has shown a tremendous spirit of solidarity and co-operation in its efforts to save both jobs and industries.

Mr. Speaker, in Quebec the situation is very bad in connection with the transaction between Gulf and Ultramar. I think the attitude of the president of Ultramar who is blackmailing and threatening the federal and provincial Governments is absolutely deplorable. I think he ought to follow the example of the people in Montreal East, who, instead of resorting to blackmail, sat down together to find a solution to their problems.

Unfortunately, we are now seeing the oil multinationals getting involved in an attempt to shut down the Gulf refinery and prevent Gaz Métropolitain, in which the Caisse de dépôt et de placement du Québec has an interest, from acquiring the Gulf refinery and getting a foothold in the market.

Mr. Speaker, I hope the Prime Minister and his Government will have the political courage to resist the pressure being exercised by the directors of the multinationals, that they will listen to the voice of reason and common sense and will find solutions to protect the jobs at the Gulf refinery in Montreal East and—

Mr. Speaker: I regret to inform the Hon. Member that his time has expired.

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[English]

HEALTH

OPPOSITION TO USE OF DEPO-PROVERA AS CONTRACEPTIVE

Mr. Neil Young (Beaches): Mr. Speaker, Depo-Provera is a hormone drug which can be used as an injectable contraceptive. Among its reported side effects are blood clots, high blood pressure, irregular bleeding, excessive weight gain, severe depression, and hair loss. The long-term effects are not known at this time, but animal and clinical tests indicate infertility and increased risk of cancer and heart disease.

The U.S. Federal Drug Administration refused to approve Depo-Provera as a contraceptive in 1974, 1978, and again in 1983. Some 62 groups in Canada have formed a coalition to demand public hearings into this issue which is too important to be decided behind closed doors where the Minister's officials listen only to the company's story. I call upon the Minister to release the documents and research on which the advisory committee made its recommendation, and to open up the entire process to the public.

It has also come to my attention that this drug is being used on mentally retarded teenagers and other young people considered to be juvenile delinquents. This is not only unacceptable by any standard, it is immoral. I call upon the Minister to ban the use of this drug in Canada immediately and specifically prohibit its use on young children who are developmentally handicapped or are juvenile delinquents, until it has been proven safe.

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MINES AND MINING

TIMMINS, ONT.—ACQUISITION OF KIDD CREEK MINES BY
FALCONBRIDGE LTD.

Mr. Aurèle Gervais (Timmins-Chapleau): Mr. Speaker, I want to speak today about the recent acquisition of Kidd Creek Mines Ltd. by Falconbridge Ltd. The main asset of the company is an ore body in Timmins, the major community in my riding. Kidd Creek is the major employer in Timmins. Workers, suppliers and others have called my office and I want to assure them and the community that we feel the transaction will be a positive one. We have spoken to various people about this matter and all feel the local mining industry will be strengthened and Falconbridge will broaden its economic base.

We have been told that in the past Falconbridge has had a hands-off policy toward its wholly-owned subsidiaries, and we expect that to continue. Therefore the community can look forward to dealing with the same excellent management team at Kidd Creek which has operated the mine for the past few years. This team will now be seconded by the management team at Falconbridge, headed by President Bill James, who is also President of the Mining Association of Canada.

We would draw to the community's attention that the other major shareholder in Falconbridge is Dome Mines Ltd. As a result, people are available to Falconbridge who are very familiar with Timmins and local conditions. We have the same rich ore body, the same management team, enriched by those from Falconbridge and Dome, and the same highly trained and dedicated workforce, along with one of the most modern smelters in the world. Therefore the Kidd Creek operation and Timmins can look forward to the future with confidence.