

bravery award to one of my constituents, firefighter Keith Clifford, and to 33 other Canadians for acts of heroism.

On November 12, 1984, firefighter Keith Clifford arrived at the scene of a fire in the city of Toronto. Informed that two children were trapped inside the building, he and two other firefighters battled blinding smoke and flames and, despite the extreme heat, rushed to the upper floor. Disregarding the danger, he crawled into the blazing front room in search of the children. Despite the hot gases that erupted, sending a ball of flame throughout the second floor, firefighter Clifford and his two companions succeeded in rescuing the young children from the blazing inferno.

Keith Clifford and the other 33 bravery award recipients are role models for all Canadians. They deserve our congratulations, our thanks, and our everlasting admiration.

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INDUSTRY

SYDNEY STEEL CORPORATION—NEED FOR LONG-TERM CANADIAN NATIONAL RAIL CONTRACT

Mr. Russell MacLellan (Cape Breton—The Sydneys): Mr. Speaker, the federal Government has stated that it will not direct Canadian National to provide a long-term contract for rails to Sydney Steel Corporation. In so doing it is playing directly into the hands of the Government of Nova Scotia which is using the requirement of this agreement as an excuse to close the Sydney Steel Corporation if the agreement is not forthcoming. It will be a tragedy if the federal Government allows this to take place because Sydney Steel has always been the prime supplier of rails to Canadian National.

The situation in industrial Cape Breton is very serious indeed. The unemployment rate is presently approximately 40 per cent. In the city of Sydney, where two-thirds of the tax base is paid by individual homeowners and only one-third by commercial establishments, the loss of Sydney Steel would be devastating.

The federal Government has already done tremendous damage to the economy of Cape Breton by closing the heavy water plants after saying they would not be closed until alternate employment was available, by cancelling the decentralization, and by cancelling the construction of the federal building and other projects. I ask the federal Government to accept this as a request to consider this very carefully.

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MINES AND MINING

KIRKLAND LAKE GOLD MINE ANNOUNCEMENT

Mr. John A. MacDougall (Timiskaming): Mr. Speaker, Christmas came early to the riding of Timiskaming yesterday

when American Barrick announced that its property in the Harker-Holloway area will be put into production with a mine named Holt McDermitt. This will entail a cost of \$50 million, 1,500 tonnes per day, 100,000 ounces of gold per year, over 200 jobs, and an influx of \$20 million into the Kirkland Lake area.

The hard work done by the company, the mayor and council, and the economic development office of Kirkland Lake must be recognized. We must also recognize that the spin-off of this project for the Larder Lake and Black River-Matheson area will be tremendous. The work being done by the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Masse) and the federal Government must be recognized. Through such work and co-operation among the various levels of government such projects are carried out.

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• (1115)

REFUGEES

REQUEST FOR ADMISSION OF LAOTIAN TO CANADA

Mr. Ian Waddell (Vancouver—Kingsway): Mr. Speaker, my statement is addressed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Clark). Mrs. Mataplan Souksavath and her eight children reside in my riding. Her husband and father of the eight children, Khamphouy Souksavath, has been in prison in Laos since 1975. He is 47 years old, sick with dysentery, malaria and heart problems. In spite of this condition he must go to the jungle every day to cut down trees.

I ask the Government of Laos and the Government of Canada to help. I believe December 12 is National Day in Laos and I ask that Government to show some humanity and release Mr. Souksavath so he can join his wife and eight children in Vancouver.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

CANADA POST CORPORATION

REQUEST FOR TERMINATION OF SUPERMAILBOX SCHEME

Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. When we became a country at Confederation the first two duties of the Government were, first, to protect the realm and defend the country, and second, to deliver the mail. The Government cannot even deliver the mail. There have been discussions in the House about a long series of problems about the security of supermailboxes. Now there is a single key that will open every box in the supermailbox. Will the Prime Minister order his Minister responsible for Canada Post to get on with the