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of its own destiny is something that should be encouraged, not discouraged.

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### HUMAN RIGHTS

#### U.S.S.R.—RELEASED REFUSENIKS' EXPRESSION OF THANKS TO CANADA

**Mr. David Berger (Laurier):** Mr. Speaker, Benjamin and Tanya Bogomolny, former refuseniks, visited Parliament yesterday, exactly one year to the day since they left the Soviet Union. Tanya has had a bout with cancer and is one of a group of patients who have been trying to join families in Israel and obtain treatment in the west. Benjamin is in the Guinness Book of World Records as the longest standing refusenik up to now.

"What accounts for your getting permission to leave," I asked them. "It was the actions of the International Cancer Patients Solidarity Committee headed by Montrealer, Dr. Jerry Batiste, and the intervention of the Canadian Government" was their clear reply. They were here to thank Canada for its efforts and to remind Canadians that there are other cancer patients and thousands of refuseniks who are still waiting for permission to leave.

Meriting particular attention are Naum Meiman, and Benjamin Charney, both cancer patients who are seriously ill and need specialized treatment. The fate of these people depends upon the continuing efforts of Canadians and our Government and parliamentarians. It depends on us, Mr. Speaker.

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### INDUSTRY

#### FUTURE OF FIRESTONE PLANT IN HAMILTON

**Ms. Sheila Copps (Hamilton East):** Mr. Speaker, once again I hesitate to refer to the operation in the Ministry of Regional Industrial Expansion as the Keystone Cops but that is exactly what it is. Yesterday we saw the ridiculous spectacle of the Minister claiming that negotiations had reopened for the sale of Firestone to Cooper in the United States. At the same time as he claimed negotiations had reopened, a fact which had escaped every other player in the negotiations, he refused to have any federal government involvement as long as negotiations are going on.

● (1415)

When will the Minister realize that with 1,300 jobs in Hamilton at stake, he cannot leave it up to his officials to make telephone contacts? He cannot leave it up to his officials to write letters when there is a mail strike going on. He has to

take some personal leadership, get on top of the dossier and make sure that a deal is made to save those 1,300 Hamilton jobs. He should stop fooling around, and if he is not prepared to do that, he should resign.

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### PRIVACY

#### SOCIAL INSURANCE NUMBERS—MORE CONTROL OVER USAGE

**Mr. Rob Nicholson (Niagara Falls):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the Government for its response to the justice committee's report on the Privacy Act and Access to Information Act. In particular, I am pleased that there will be more control on the use of Social Insurance Numbers.

There is a growing concern on the part of all Canadians about Social Insurance Numbers and this concern has been addressed. The federal Government will require all federal Departments and agencies to obtain Treasury Board approval for any current use of SINs not authorized by statute or regulation. There will also be a prohibition against the collection and the use of SINs by any federal Department or agency for any new administrative purpose unless specifically authorized by law.

In addition, the Government will require that no right, benefit or privilege be withheld from and no penalty be imposed on any individual for refusal to disclose his or her SIN to a government institution except where it is specifically required by law. I am pleased as well that there will be a public awareness campaign launched to heighten knowledge of the Access to Information Act. I think these are changes that should be welcomed by all Members of the House because they are a significant step forward.

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### NORTHERN ONTARIO INITIATIVES PROGRAM

#### COMPOSITION OF ADVISORY COUNCIL

**Mr. Keith Penner (Cochrane—Superior):** Mr. Speaker, the Solicitor General (Mr. Kelleher), the Minister responsible for the Northern Ontario Initiatives Program known as FED-NOR, has recently announced the composition of the program's advisory council. As I expected, this council has become another patronage patch in a lush garden of government appointments.

The chairman is a former Province of Ontario Conservative cabinet Minister. The vice-chairman has close associations with the Minister himself. One of the members is the father of a sitting Ontario Conservative MPP and a former cabinet Minister. Another is a former Ontario Conservative MPP. Still another is the wife of a past president of a Tory riding association.