

Canada seems to favour well off professionals and political opponents of the Sandinistas, by bringing in over 900 of them to take the places of other real refugees.

If this is the Tories' high class immigration policy, that is their choice. But to call it a refugee policy is hypocritical nonsense.

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HISTORIC EVENTS

HOLOCAUST DAY

Mr. Fernand Jourdenais (La Prairie): Mr. Speaker, today is Holocaust Day, Yam Hasho'ah, a day of remembrance for the six million Jews and the uprising of the Ghetto of Warsaw during World War II.

We pray for the orphans, the widows, the innocent victims whose ashes have been scattered around by the Nazis. Their only flaws—they were Jewish by birth, and they were taken to Auschwitz, Dauchau, via Drancy, and the velodrome d'hiver and many other camps of slow deaths. They were tortured, they were destroyed on account of their identity. They were innocent victims of barbarians.

We too, here in our country, are not proud of what the then Liberal Government did to them, in returning them to the concentration camps in Germany.

We can only pray in silence to pay tribute to their memory. We undertake not to let such an evil repeat itself in this century or ever again.

My colleagues on all sides of the Chamber will no doubt rise with me and offer a tribute to their memory.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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CAPE BRETON DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

PRE-RETIREMENT LEAVE PLAN—PAYMENT OF UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE PREMIUMS BY PARTICIPANTS

Mr. Dave Dingwall (Cape Breton—East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, the Cape Breton Development Corporation pre-retirement leave plan was designed purposely to have the workers affected continue to be employed under a contract of service to Devco in order that they be eligible to continue to earn entitlement to various benefits, including the Canada Pension Plan. With very few exceptions, income from employment for purposes of one of the Acts I have mentioned is income from employment for the purposes of the other.

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Since the pre-retirement leave plan of 1971, many miners have now gone for a compassionate disability pension and programs under the Labour Adjustment Program. Under these programs, individuals were not be requested to pay UIC. Hence, individuals who participated in the Devco pre-retirement leave plan must pay employment insurance. This is financial discrimination since these persons will never obtain employment with that Crown corporation.

I call upon the Minister of National Revenue (Mr. MacKay) to write to the Board of Directors at Cape Breton Development Corporation and encourage them to change this absurd and unfair deduction. The Minister relayed to me in a letter that he believed only Devco could change this rule. I encourage the Minister to help show Devco the light by providing it with his assistance.

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[Translation]

AIR CANADA

IMPACT OF PRIVATIZATION ON REMOTE REGIONS

Mr. Guy St-Julien (Abitibi): Mr. Speaker, the privatization of Air Canada has been on my mind for many months. On May 7, 1987, I wrote to mayors, chambers of commerce, school boards, development corporations, LEAD corporations and the CRDAT in the riding of Abitibi, suggesting they send resolutions to Mr. Jeannot, President of Air Canada, to the effect that "in the event Air Canada is privatized, the Abitibi—Témiscamingue region is not penalized by cut-backs in staff and in the excellent service it has always received".

On August 6, 1987, I met privately for an hour with Mr. Jeannot in Montreal to discuss the privatization of Air Canada. The decision was made by Ottawa.

This is Canada's fourteen privatization. This airline has an excellent record, and I agree with letting its employees become shareholders.

This morning, I received confirmation from the director of Air Canada for Abitibi—Témiscamingue, Mr. Jean-Claude Tétrault, that there would be no cut-backs in staff or services.

Mr. Speaker, Air Canada has a duty to provide outstanding service to isolated areas. We will all be most vigilant in this respect, and I intend to see to it that privatization does not mean sacrificing the interests of the public.