

*S. O. 31*

• (1410)

Initiatives such as these by the government and private industry are putting Canada at the forefront of the environmental protection stage. Globe 90 will be of benefit to all Canadians.

[Translation]

## MEECH LAKE ACCORD

**Mr. Marcel R. Tremblay (Québec—Est):** Mr. Speaker, several years ago, Canadians worried about how Quebecers would vote in the referendum, and rightly so. They realized at the time that without Quebec, Canada would be much weaker. Those who were in government at the time, the Trudeaus, Chrétien and Lalondes, committed themselves, put their seats on the line, and got together with various leading figures to save this country, as they said. Today, somehow, they don't sound the same.

It is now March 22, 1990, and although it doesn't seem that long ago, I have the distinct impression that the situation has changed dramatically.

Would hon. members and the people of Canada please explain what is going on? It looks like a referendum is now being held in Canada, against Quebec.

Mr. Speaker, where is this marvelous country we were going to save? I would urge all Canadians to turn on their television sets this evening at 8:30 and listen to and record the message of the Right Hon. Brian Mulroney, the architect of the Meech Lake Accord.

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[English]

## TIMMINS AIRPORT

**Mr. Cid Samson (Timmins—Chapleau):** Mr. Speaker, in 1988 a much needed expansion project for the Timmins airport was announced by the federal government. The former Transport Minister justified the cost of the expansion because of the size of the city and the amount of airport traffic.

Tenders were opened in April of 1989, but no action has been taken yet. Recently I received a copy of a study commissioned by Transport Canada on the economic impact the Timmins airport has on the local economy. I hope the new Minister of Transport will take the time to read the study and consider the number of jobs created

by the Timmins airport, not only in Timmins but also in other regions of Ontario.

The study underlines the pressing need for this expansion to go ahead. It is imperative that this project get approval.

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## MICMAC NEWS

**Mr. Russell MacLellan (Cape Breton—The Sydneys):** Mr. Speaker, it has been my pleasure today to meet with native leaders from Nova Scotia, the editor and the publisher of the *Micmac News*, and Mr. Donald Marshall, who are in town to meet with the Secretary of State to try to convince the Secretary of State to re-establish funding for the *Micmac News* and other publications across this country.

The *Micmac News* has been published for over 20 years. It has a circulation of over 4,800. It has done a tremendous amount of good and has been a source of communication and pride to the Micmac community in Atlantic Canada. It is the only major native newspaper in Atlantic Canada.

This government decided that it wanted to silence the Micmac people. This is just part of the plot of this government that includes doing away with protesters. Protesters are even afraid to hold up signs now in case the National Gallery wants to buy them.

It has to change. We need human rights in this country. This government has to re-establish funding for the *Micmac News*.

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## NATIVE COMMUNICATIONS

**Ms. Ethel Blondin (Western Arctic):** Mr. Speaker, over the last couple of years Canadians have repeatedly been shocked to learn that the justice system has failed the aboriginal peoples. I, too, have had the opportunity to meet Donald Marshall. It is difficult, as a proud Canadian, to look at a man who spent that many years in jail without fault.

How can the government now take away the voice of the aboriginal peoples, shut down our newspapers and take our money for communications? That is the unkindest cut. That is something that should not be tolerated in Canada.