

Merrithew) announced the Canadian Exploration Incentive Program for junior exploration companies across Canada. Along with this good news, he advised of the six-month extension of the 133-1/3 per cent earned depletion allowance.

At this time, may I say to the Minister of Mines and his staff; Eveline Kasner, Chairperson, Canadian Save Flow-through Committee; John Larch, President, Prospectors and Developers; the mayors, reeves and councillors from across Canada; the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Masse); the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson), and the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) that, working together, we have achieved a bright and stable future for the junior mining companies and the communities across the northern regions of Canada. Congratulations, and thank you to all.

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IMMIGRATION

SELECTION OF NICARAGUAN AND GUATEMALAN REFUGEES

Mr. Dan Heap (Spadina): Mr. Speaker, our new Minister of Employment and Immigration (Mrs. MacDougall) ought to deal quickly with a problem she has inherited, that is, the double standard that our immigration officers abroad apparently use in selecting Central American refugees.

In 1987, for example, the Canadian consulate in the United States gave refugee status in Canada to 168 Nicaraguans living in the United States but only 71 Guatemalans. This smacks of a two to one political bias. These are not the ones who come to the Canadian border seeking refuge. These are people living in the U.S. who ask to be resettled in Canada as refugees from Nicaragua or Guatemala.

We know that the big majority of Nicaraguans claiming refugee status in the U.S. are accepted there, but scarcely any Guatemalans. Yet, on the other hand, Nicaragua has no pattern of death squad activity such as reigns in Guatemala.

Why then does Immigration Canada bring in twice as many Nicaraguan as Guatemalan refugees?

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[Translation]

INDUSTRY

OPPORTUNITY TO ESTABLISH DURAL PLANT IN JONQUIÈRE

Mr. Jean-Pierre Blackburn (Jonquière): Mr. Speaker, this week, Jonquière's socio-economic partners held an economic summit and made it clear to the authorities at Alcan that they wanted the new plant that will manufacture an entirely new product, dural, to be located in Jonquière. The new product, which combines the strength of steel with the light weight of aluminum, is said to have great potential.

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Mr. Speaker, in our region, this plant is a symbol of the on-going struggle and efforts to diversify our economy and lessen the loss of jobs due to technological change. Alcan's involvement with the academic world, its research centre, the employment committee, the work that has been done on aluminum processing, and the company's involvement in SOCCRENT, all these elements point the way to further involvement by locating the new plant in Jonquière.

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[English]

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

PRIME MINISTER'S SCHEDULED VISIT TO NEW BRUNSWICK

Mr. Fernand Robichaud (Westmorland—Kent): Mr. Speaker, we are told that the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) is going to be in New Brunswick later this week. It is hoped that the Prime Minister will put the time to good use instead of playing politics.

There remain some outstanding issues in New Brunswick which the federal Government has yet to deal with, not the least of which is the closure of the Moncton rail shops. The Prime Minister received a rude welcome on a previous visit because of this issue, and I remind him that he has yet to offer any concrete solutions to this problem.

Also, there is the matter of New Brunswick being the only province in Canada without full CBC broadcasting services. This is an important issue, and his Minister of Communications (Miss MacDonald) is refusing to act. New Brunswick is also a victim of discrimination with regard to the designation of communities for the northern allowance. While practically every community along the Gaspé coast as well as 65 communities in Nova Scotia have been designated, only one island community in New Brunswick is on the list.

I respectfully ask the Prime Minister to deal with these issues and bring justice to the people of New Brunswick. Now is the time to show to New Brunswickers that they have the right to receive the same treatment as all the people in the other provinces of Canada.

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• (1410)

TRADE

CANADA-UNITED STATES FREE TRADE AGREEMENT—CANADA WEST FOUNDATION'S STUDY

Mr. Brian White (Dauphin—Swan River): Mr. Speaker, over the past four years the Canada West Foundation has done extensive research on the free trade issue. Its most recent