

non-rail asset, and presumably—well, the Hon. Member knows what he can do with the CN Tower.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: I think, given the time, we will move on.

* * *

[Translation]

TAX REFORM

FLOW-THROUGH SHARES AND SPECIAL ALLOCATION— GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Mike Cassidy (Ottawa Centre): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Finance. Last week, l'Association des prospecteurs du Québec asked that flow-through shares and the earned depletion allowance be maintained. Does the Minister realize that this request was supported by a long list of municipalities, by the Quebec Union of Municipalities, metal workers, the Employers Council, the Montreal Stock Exchange, the Quebec Chamber of Commerce, the Canadian association of cities, and so forth? Considering this request, what does the Minister intend to do to maintain an active mining sector in remote areas of Quebec and Canada, when this incentive is taken away?

[English]

Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I do want to assure the Hon. Member that I am very much aware of the comments that have been made on flow-through shares. He mentioned a number of representations that have been made. They also were the subject of a recommendation in the report of the Finance Committee, of which he is a member. Quite frankly, as I have said on many occasions, I am not going to be able to comment specifically on these until I present my Ways and Means Motion later on this month, which will make clear where we stand on a number of these issues.

Quite frankly, I thought the Hon. Member was going to ask me a question on the announcement this morning of the real growth in GNP of 4.3 per cent—

Some Hon. Members: Order!

Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre):—where business investment is up 21 per cent.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

[Translation]

MINING EXPLORATION—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Mike Cassidy (Ottawa Centre): Mr. Speaker, I intended to ask a question about the economic situation in Schefferville, a town that was closed by the Prime Minister and where the unemployment rate was around 30 to 35 per

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cent. Last year, thanks to flow-through shares, \$19 million was invested in mining exploration in this community. What does the Minister intend to do to maintain this level of exploration after 1988? Or does the Minister of Finance intend to close Schefferville again, after it was closed the first time by the Prime Minister?

● (1500)

[English]

Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I think I responded to that question quite clearly in my first answer.

There was something else. Housing investment is up 12 per cent. Machinery and equipment investment is up 28 per cent.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

* * *

[Translation]

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

HOLDING OF TRIALS IN FRENCH IN ALBERTA—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Hon. Bob Kaplan (York Centre): Mr. Speaker, I would like to put a question to the Prime Minister.

Yesterday, I asked him why his Government pleaded before the courts in Alberta against the trial proceedings of Luc Paquette being conducted in French. The Prime Minister admitted he was not aware of the facts, but he added nonetheless, and I quote, "this Government has never failed to promote both our official languages."

Today, he must know that my statement was correct, and I ask him: Why is his Government against that trial being conducted in French in Alberta?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, as a matter of fact, as I said yesterday, I had not read the whole judgment and unfortunately, the Minister of Justice is not in the House today.

But allow me to tell the Hon. Member this about the Paquette decision that is divided in two parts—

[English]

In the first half of the decision in that case, rendered on September 11, 1987, the Alberta Court of Appeal upheld the position of the Attorney General of Canada that the French language can be used as of right in criminal proceedings in Alberta because Section 110 of the former Northwest Territories Act is still in force in that province with respect to criminal matters.

In the second half of the judgment, rendered last Friday, the Court of Appeal decided that Part XIV.1 of the Criminal