

respect for this eminent religious leader and his international reputation as a winner of the Nobel Peace Prize.

As I said earlier, my colleague met the Dalai Lama yesterday afternoon, and I also know that tomorrow afternoon he will have a meeting with the Standing Committee of the House on External Affairs. I think parliamentarians will be delighted with this opportunity to meet him and hear what he has to say about human rights and maintaining those values we hold so dear.

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FLOW-THROUGH SHARES

Mr. Guy Saint-Julien (Abitibi): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Finance. Flow-through-share financing for the Quebec mining industry has dropped from \$532 million in 1987 to probably less than \$50 million this year.

My question is this: Will the federal government raise the level of flow-through shares from 100 to 133 per cent? If not, how does it intend to help junior mining companies?

[*English*]

Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the interest that the hon. member has shown in the issue of flowthrough shares. I might say to him that the drop in mining exploration is not entirely related to this one issue. There is a very real problem in the mineral markets in the world today and this has caused, in large extent, the slowdown in mining exploration in Canada.

In the tax reform of 1987, we did recognize the importance of the mining industry. The mining sector itself has one of the lowest rates of taxation both for new investment as well as average effective tax. We also recognized, with some special provisions, the important role that prospectors play in the mining exploration process.

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HUMAN RIGHTS

Hon. Warren Allmand (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Acting Prime Minister. As was just mentioned, today we are honoured to have

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with us on Parliament Hill the Dalai Lama of Tibet, the winner of the 1989 Nobel peace prize and one of the world's great spiritual leaders.

When the Dalai Lama met with the Secretary of State yesterday, I understand he asked the Canadian government to support his five-point peace plan with China, which includes respect for the fundamental human rights and democratic freedoms of the Tibetan people. Would the minister tell us what reply the government gave to the Dalai Lama and is the government willing to support his five-point peace plan?

• (1450)

Hon. Gerry Weiner (Secretary of State of Canada and Minister of State (Multiculturalism and Citizenship)): Mr. Speaker, I was very honoured and pleased to have the opportunity to meet yesterday with the Dalai Lama. It was a very moving and inspirational afternoon.

The member is correct. His Holiness did reiterate the five proposals that he has made on two separate occasions, I believe, in 1987 and 1988. I assured him that I would be relaying his interest and the dedicated manner in which he brought them forward to the members of my government.

We then proceeded to the unveiling of a tribute to human rights. It was a very moving afternoon. We had many Canadians participating in an examination of what our future vision of a world where human rights are not violated, can really be. I was thrilled to have the honour of representing the government on this occasion.

Hon. Warren Allmand (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce): Mr. Speaker, the minister did not answer as to whether or not the government will support the five-point peace plan proposed by the Dalai Lama and in particular, a respect for the basic fundamental human rights of the Tibetan people.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Speaker, the five-point peace plan advocated by the Dalai Lama proposes as well a stop to the transfer of Chinese people to Tibet and the designation of Tibet as a peace and no-violence zone. Is the government prepared to accept the Dalai Lama's proposals? Is the government prepared to discuss them with the Chinese government at the earliest opportunity?