

S.O. 21

## MINES AND MINING

PROPOSAL TO BUILD LEAD SMELTER AT TRAIL, B.C.

**Mr. Bob Brisco (Kootenay West):** Mr. Speaker, in light of negative comments which appeared recently in *The Globe and Mail* and other media concerning the plight of Cominco Limited's smelting operations in British Columbia and similarly the plight of the City of Trail, I want to assure the House and my constituents that the negotiations between Cominco and the Province of B.C. regarding Cominco's proposal to build a new lead smelter at Trail are progressing well.

I am keeping myself well informed on the progress of those negotiations, as are the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion (Mr. Stevens), the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Miss Carney), and the Minister of State for Mines (Mr. Layton). We are satisfied with the progress. We fully expect that an announcement on the positive outcome of those discussions is forthcoming and will be made before the end of this month.

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## IMMIGRATION

PROPOSED VISA REQUIREMENT FOR PORTUGUESE VISITORS

**Miss Aideen Nicholson (Trinity):** Mr. Speaker, many constituents have expressed concern which I share about reports that the Government is considering imposing a visa requirement on visitors from Portugal in order to curtail the increasing number of refugee applicants from that country. This is no way to deal with the problem which lies not in Portugal but with our refugee determination process. Out of the backlog of 20,000 refugee applications, only 1,000 are from Portuguese.

The majority of Portuguese Canadians living in Toronto are originally from the Azores, nine islands a two-hour flight away from our visa office in Lisbon.

Instead of punishing Canadians and their families overseas by putting them to the uncertainty and expense of fulfilling a visa requirement, why does the Government not take some action on the real problems: the weaknesses in the refugee determination system, and the so-called immigration consultants who exploit those weaknesses?

## THE ECONOMY

SITUATION IN WESTERN CANADA

**Mr. Bill Blaikie (Winnipeg—Birds Hill):** Mr. Speaker, many western Canadians must be recalling, with irony at best and cynicism at worst, the now transparently empty rhetoric spoken by members of the Conservative Party about western Canada during their many years in opposition.

With yesterday's announcement that farmers will be getting less for their grain than at any time since the Great Depression, with the international market-place playing havoc in the energy sector, and with the unrealistic cost-recovery deadlines imposed on the northern transcontinental route, the Conservatives are revealing by their approach to these issues that their real loyalty is not to western Canada but to some hidebound, stupid, and destructive ideological fixation on letting the so-called market-place determine the fate of western Canada while western Canadians dangle in the foul free-enterprise wind. Many western Canadians have rejected this view over the years. They have voted NDP. Many more will do so in the future in order to have a voice that can be counted on not to remain silent like the voice of the Tories they elected in 1984.

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## HISTORIC EVENTS

ANNIVERSARY OF CANADIAN ADVANCE ON VIMY RIDGE

**Mr. Joe Reid (St. Catharines):** Mr. Speaker, 69 years ago today Canadians achieved the unachievable. Sixty-nine years ago today at zero hour the barren earth erupted humanity. From dug-out, shell hole, and trenches, men sprang forward and advanced toward the Ridge. It was Canada from the Atlantic to the Pacific that was on parade.

Brigadier General Ross said that he thought then that in those few minutes he witnessed the birth of a nation. Only a few of the 100,000 Canadians who advanced on Vimy Ridge that day are still alive. They are the final survivors of an army that did what the British and French before them had failed to do.

● (1410)

Today Vimy Ridge in northwestern France still stands as the most important battle in Canada's history. This is why each year the Government of Canada holds a ceremony at the majestic Vimy Memorial, on land deeded to Canada by France in honour of the 60,000 Canadians killed. We will remember them.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Sixty seconds.