

I am referring to the cuts in home delivery and the continuing installation of superboxes.

Mr. Speaker, these people were determined. They are fed up with being treated like second-class citizens. People living practically next door are getting home delivery, and they are not, because their homes were built a year later. They pay the same 36 cents for their stamps, they pay the same taxes but they are not getting the same service.

I think it is high time this Government gave Canada Post a clear-cut mandate to reinstate home delivery.

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MINES AND MINING

TRIBUTE TO EMPLOYEES AND MANAGING DIRECTOR OF SIGMA MINE AT VAL D'OR IN ABITIBI

Mr. Guy St. Julien (Abitibi): Mr. Speaker, on March 17, 1937, it was St. Patrick's Day all over the world. But, in Val-d'Or, in Abitibi, it was the day the new plant at the Sigma mine started its operations.

Sigma has always had a reputation as a reliable gold mine, a progressive and well-organized company with the lowest turnover rate of any mine of its class in Canada, thanks to the excellent relations between management and the independent employees' union under the leadership of Mr. André Busque.

Under the management of Mr. C. Henri Bréhaut and Mr. J. André Carrier, engineer and Director General, Sigma Québec Mines Ltd. celebrated its fiftieth anniversary last Saturday, with all former and present employees, administrators and a number of local, provincial and national figures.

Sigma produces over 3,515,000 troy ounces of gold and 680,000 troy ounces of silver. Sigma's history is also that of its workers, the men who work underground, the workers in the plant, the geologists and the engineers.

Mr. Speaker, as a former miner with the company, I say three cheers for Director General André Carrier and his employees!

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● (1410)

[English]

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

RELEASE SOUGHT OF WOMAN CONVICTED OF SECOND DEGREE MURDER

Mr. John Nunziata (York South—Weston): Mr. Speaker, Maisie Clark is a 63-year-old woman presently serving a life sentence at the Prison for Women in Kingston, Ontario. She was convicted of second degree murder, and except for a

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period of nine months during her appeal she has been incarcerated since October 26, 1981. According to the verdict, she must serve 10 years before she becomes eligible for parole.

Maisie Clark's offence is a classic case of a crime of passion. One commentator stated that "she snapped under a combination of grief, loneliness and sexual humiliation." She has had the support of many prominent Canadians, including the ex-warden of the Prison for Women, Isabel McNeil of Mill Village, Nova Scotia.

The continued incarceration of Maisie Clark serves no useful purpose from the point of view of rehabilitation or the protection of society. She is a mother and a grandmother. She is in failing health and it is unlikely in the extreme that she will ever commit another crime. Her life sentence may as well be a death sentence.

I would ask that the Solicitor General (Mr. Kelleher) consider exercising his authority under the royal prerogative of mercy to release Maisie Clark. The criminal justice system would be well served by her release.

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HUMAN RIGHTS

U.S.S.R.—CATHOLIC PRIEST RETURNED TO LABOUR CAMP

Mr. John Oostrom (Willowdale): Mr. Speaker, since Mikhail Gorbachev came to power, the Soviet Union has been telling all the world that it is changing. The world receives a constant barrage of propaganda designed to project an image of caring and understanding. Yet the U.S.S.R. continues its brutal war in Afghanistan, its persecution of Jews, and the stifling of religious freedoms.

A Lithuanian Catholic priest, Father Tamevicius, has been returned to a Soviet labour camp after refusing to confess to anti-state activities. Father Tamevicius said:

In prison, I will always pray for . . . the struggle for the freedom of the church and for basic human rights. Do not believe it when propagandists for Government atheism say that such activity is political. It is not politics, but a matter of life and death for all of us.

Religious freedom has been a cornerstone of democracy, and the Soviet Union continues to demonstrate that religious freedom will never be tolerated, but it is finding that religion and faith will never be extinguished.

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LABOUR RELATIONS

GENERAL STRIKE IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

Ms. Pauline Jewett (New Westminster—Coquitlam): Mr. Speaker, today, a day of protest by workers throughout the province, has brought the Province of British Columbia to a standstill. This is a dramatic moment in the history of the