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Relaying government information to the general public has always been a part of the public library's mandate. The partnership between government information services and the public library system has been successfully in place for over 100 years. It would be most unfortunate if communications between the government and the people of Canada should be endangered.

With the privatization of CCG, government documents will become expensive and difficult to obtain.

For the sake of providing information to Canadians, I ask the government to consider retaining the publishing function of CCG while giving up the responsibility for printing.

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### MINING

**Mr. Stan Dromisky (Thunder Bay—Atikokan, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to the Canadian mining industry. Canada is the third largest mining nation in the world and the world's largest producer of uranium, zinc and potash. Almost 80 per cent of Canada's mineral production is exported.

Mining is the mainstay of employment in over 115 communities in Canada. For every 10 jobs created in the mining industry, 8 more jobs are indirectly created. For every dollar spent on mining research and development, there is a \$3 benefit to the Canadian economy.

Over the past two years the demand for nickel has jumped 20 per cent. Fortunately Canadians have the resource, the workforce and the expertise to meet this anticipated demand.

It is for these reasons that we must work together in a co-operative spirit to foster an environment in which the mining industry may continue to flourish in this great country of ours.

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### QUEBEC REFERENDUM

**Mr. Gurbax Singh Malhi (Bramalea—Gore—Malton, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, Canada is consistently rated as one of the best nations in the world in which to live. The United Nations ranked us number one twice in the last three years. A recent private sector ranking of cities around the world ranked four Canadian cities in the top twelve.

All around the globe are people who yearn for the rights and freedoms, not to mention the peace and personal security, we enjoy as Canadians. We are incredibly fortunate to live in a country founded on the principles of freedom and democracy.

As an immigrant to this great country I find it hard to believe anyone, let alone descendants of the first Fathers of Confederation, would ever consider leaving it.

Quebecers should take a good hard look at the state of other countries around the world before they decide to separate from this one.

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[Translation]

### FRANCO-ONTARIANS

**Mr. Brent St. Denis (Algoma, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, I had the opportunity to attend the annual convention of the Association canadienne-française de l'Ontario (Rive-nord) and the 20th anniversary of "L'étoile d'or" seniors' club in Elliott Lake.

● (1405)

As always, the members, volunteers and directors did a good job of representing the Franco-Ontarians in our region. As always, they have shown that the French fact is still very strong throughout Northern Ontario because the francophones in our region have great love and esteem for the distinctive features and wealth of their culture and heritage.

There is no need for Quebec to leave Canada in order to preserve the French culture. To the contrary, we believe that the French culture will have a better chance of surviving in a united Canada, as my friends from the ACFO and the seniors' club have demonstrated.

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### REFERENDUM CAMPAIGN

**Mr. Roger Pomerleau (Anjou—Rivière-des-Prairies, BQ):** Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Finance contends that all the evils in the world will befall a sovereign Quebec and one million jobs will be lost.

We will recall that the minister himself, along with his present government colleagues, opposed the free trade agreement with the United States because, as reported in the June 21, 1988 *Hansard*, it would have "—a negative impact on many industries and communities and because it will jeopardize the Canadian economic and social structure as well as Canada's political independence".

In fact, as we know, the FTA created thousands of jobs in Canada and gave a tremendous boost to our exports.

The no side, and the Liberal Party of Canada in particular, have always used fear as an argument against progress. On October 30, Quebecers will oppose them by saying yes to sovereignty.

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[English]

### GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS

**Mr. Randy White (Fraser Valley West, Ref.):** Mr. Speaker, this morning's headline reads: "Probe into contracts given to bureaucrat's relatives miffs Dingwall". Apparently the minister is unhappy with the lack of action taken against bureaucrats who were caught giving government work to friends and relatives.