

*S.O. 21*

joke because, if we look at the guidelines, they are just another way of denying benefits to as many people as possible.

Mr. Speaker, I dare hope that all Conservative Members will make strong representations to both the Minister of Employment and Immigration and the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) so that these people be treated with justice.

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**THE ECONOMY**

## GOVERNMENT'S PERFORMANCE

**Mr. Jean-Guy Guilbault (Drummond):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to draw the attention of the House to the positive impact of the decisions made by the Conservative Government.

Recent economic indicators continue to reflect the sound basis of the economic and fiscal measures introduced by the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson), as the value of our dollar rises and interest rates continue to drop.

Since September 1984, the prime rate of the chartered banks has dropped from 13 per cent to 9.75 per cent. One-year mortgages are now available at 9.5 per cent.

More than 666,000 new jobs have been created in the past two years, and the unemployment rate has dropped from 11.7 per cent to its present rate of 9.4 per cent. In addition, last year's drop in the federal deficit was the first such drop in six years. With a forecast deficit of \$32 billion in 1986-87, this Government will have achieved two successive reductions in the deficit for the first time in the past sixteen years.

Mr. Speaker, this Government will continue to apply its agenda for economic renewal toward improving the standard of living of all Canadians.

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[English]

**REFUGEES**

## CENTRAL AMERICAN REFUGEES' ATTEMPTS TO ENTER CANADA

**Mr. Dan Heap (Spadina):** Mr. Speaker, is Canada abandoning its commitment to refugees who are fleeing from Reagan's wars against the peoples of Central America? For years, death squads and armies, paid and armed by the United States, have killed and terrorized the peoples of El Salvador and Guatemala. Many of these people have fled to hide in the United States. The U.S. has now proclaimed a tough new immigration Act which will deport them back to the countries from which they fled. As they now try to enter Canada in growing numbers to claim refugee status, our Immigration Commission seeks to hinder them. The Minister of Employment and Immigration (Mr. Bouchard) has announced that he may force them to wait in the United States while their claims are examined. This

would expose them to further danger of deportation to El Salvador and Guatemala.

On behalf of the New Democratic Party, and according to a resolution unanimously adopted in federal council on January 18, I call upon the Government to promise not to block the entry to Canada of the Salvadorans and Guatemalans who are fleeing the United States and coming here to be examined for their refugee claims. Instead, let the Minister bring in the long promised refugee legislation, as recommended 14 months ago by the Standing Committee on Labour, Employment and Immigration in its report tabled in Parliament. This would be a speedy and humane procedure, not a panicky slamming of Canada's doors against people in need.

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**HISTORIC EVENTS**

## ANNIVERSARY OF UKRAINE'S DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

**Mr. William G. Lesick (Edmonton East):** Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to the attention of the House that this is the sixty-ninth anniversary of the Declaration of Independence of Ukraine. With the fall of tsarist Russia on January 22, 1918, the Ukrainian Parliament issued a proclamation establishing an Independent National Democratic Republic of Ukraine. This new state recognized the rights and freedoms of its people: freedom of speech, religion, press, and the recognition of basic human rights. It is a state that is proud of its culture and heritage.

However, the imperialistic forces of the Soviet communist regime suppressed and overthrew the Ukrainian state in 1922. A reign of terror ensued.

● (1410)

The Ukrainian people fought bravely for their freedom but were subjected to unspeakable horrors. During the black famine of 1933, more than six million innocent Ukrainians were forcibly starved to death.

As a Canadian of Ukrainian descent I call upon all Canadians to join in the remembrance of this historic day and to pray for the freedom from oppression of all peoples.

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[Translation]

**LABOUR RELATIONS**

## REQUEST THAT PORT OF QUEBEC BE REOPENED

**Mr. Marcel R. Tremblay (Québec East):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to draw the attention of the House to the latest developments in the labour dispute that has been going on for more than four months at the Port of Quebec City.