

STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S. O. 31

[Translation]

MINE TAILINGS

Mr. Guy Saint-Julien (Abitibi): Mr. Speaker, a Quebec mining company called Ressources Sainte-Geneviève is investing \$20 million in an INRS research program to extract precious metals from mine tailings, these usually toxic wastes that the original mine operators left behind.

• (1400)

Not only is the process cost-effective but it would stop the contamination of downstream waterways by those open-air dumps of toxic waste. This process, for which Quebec has authorized a first trial on 100,000 tonnes of waste at the Manitou Mine near Val d'Or, is one of the so-called first-generation solutions.

It is doubly important because, while giving a new commercial value to this often dangerous waste, it takes it out and away from the threatened environment, reduces its volume by 80 per cent and could well control the remaining residue through burial under water in the abandoned galleries, in order to completely prevent the release of the toxic substances which occur naturally in such waste. The management of contaminated water seeping from mine-tailing storage yards has become a governmental priority world-wide.

Mine storage yards have contaminated entire watersheds and over the past couple of decades their management has cost governments trying to handle orphan sites a fortune and has been a costly burden for active mine operators as well.

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[English]

NATIONAL FOREST WEEK

Mr. Réginald Bélair (Cochrane—Superior): Mr. Speaker, during the week of May 2 to May 8 Canadians will be celebrating National Forest Week. The 1993 theme will be Our Common Ground.

There is nothing common any more as the Conservative government is shafting the provinces and the forest industry with the financial burden in the application of

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integrated forest management. So much for silviculture, reforestation, the protection of wildlife habitats and access roads for anglers and hunters.

Twenty thousand jobs will be lost when the Forest Resources Development Agreements are not renewed upon expiry. This will only fuel the environmentalist movement's efforts to tarnish our international reputation as a nation that neglects its forests.

During National Forest Week the question every Canadian should be asking themselves is: How can I help to make our forests better and more productive? The answer is: By removing this tired Conservative government.

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PEACEKEEPERS

Mr. Greg Thompson (Carleton—Charlotte): Mr. Speaker, Canada's peacekeeping soldiers have a long and distinguished history. However a recent spate of accusations by opposition members of Parliament casting shadows on their integrity and ability stem more from concern about the possibility of the Minister of National Defence becoming Canada's next Prime Minister than from the calibre of our soldiers in Somalia.

Lieutenant-General Gordon Reay said on the weekend that he is:

disturbed by attempts to use my soldiers as whipping boys in an attempt to get defence minister Kim Campbell.

I and other Canadians agree with Lieutenant-General Reay. These fine men and women are doing their best in a very difficult situation, and attacks upon their integrity do not help.

The military justice system is currently investigating the Somali deaths. As members of Parliament we must learn to let them do their job and await the outcome of their investigation before casting doubts upon the capability of our Armed Forces.

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PARLIAMENTARY EMPLOYMENT AND STAFF RELATIONS ACT

Mr. Lyle Kristiansen (Kootenay West—Revelstoke): Mr. Speaker, over the past almost seven years numerous questions, statements and speeches in this House by