

Oral Questions

[English]

Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, let me make it very clear that under the basis on which we established this supplementary payment there was a very, very strong attempt made to be equitable as it related to all six provinces which receive the benefits of this agreement. I would say to the Hon. Member that Quebec has just been the beneficiary of an important ERDA agreement, the first Economic and Regional Development Agreement which has been signed with the Province of Quebec since 1974, which is for \$1 billion. That recognizes the economic situation of the Province of Quebec. I think that if the Hon. Member spoke to Mr. Duhaime and Mr. Levesque, he would find that they are pretty pleased with that agreement.

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MINES AND MINING**EXPANSION OF FALCONBRIDGE REFINERY IN NORWAY**

Mr. John R. Rodriguez (Nickel Belt): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of State for Mines. Last Saturday, Falconbridge Nickel Mines Limited announced that it is going to spend \$41 million on expanding its nickel refinery in Kristiansand, Norway. Furthermore, it will be purchasing nickel copper matte from Botswana to be refined in that refinery in Norway. In view of the fact that Falconbridge Nickel Mines Limited reduced its work-force over the last two years in the Sudbury basin by 900 workers, will the Minister intervene personally with Falconbridge to ensure that since the company has \$41 million to spend on expanding its refinery offshore to refine Botswana nickel, it will spend the \$41 million to build a nickel refinery in the Sudbury basin so we can refine Canadian nickel at the source where we mine it?

Hon. Bob Layton (Minister of State (Mines)): Mr. Speaker, I will take the Hon. Member's announcement under advisement. I will discuss it with the industry the Hon. Member has named. I would like to point out that Falconbridge Nickel Mines Limited, which has been brought to our attention, is one of those corporations which continue to be major investors in Canada on behalf of shareholders.

● (1450)

GRANTING OF EXPORT LICENCES

Mr. John R. Rodriguez (Nickel Belt): Mr. Speaker, it is absolutely outrageous that the Minister of State for Mines did not know about this particular investment of Falconbridge offshore. Any self-respecting country does not allow its resources to be shipped out and refined elsewhere.

While the Minister is taking this under advisement, and as he contacts Falconbridge, will he ensure that Falconbridge is aware that the Government holds export licences? Will he inform Falconbridge that unless it is prepared to put that \$41 million investment in the Sudbury basin it will not get the

export licences to send nickel matte out from the Sudbury basin?

Hon. Bob Layton (Minister of State (Mines)): Mr. Speaker, the Sudbury basin has been one of the longest living sources of Canada's mining industry. Currently productivity in the Sudbury basin is being improved in spectacular ways. With regard to the specific question, it will be a part of the review which I will conduct.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**CANADA-UNITED STATES TRANSFER OF OFFENDERS TREATY—MICHIGAN CASE**

Mr. Tom Hockin (London West): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Acting Minister of Justice. It does not refer to the State of California, but to the State of Michigan. What are the Minister of Justice and officials in the Department of Justice doing about a State of Michigan policy directive which prevents the transfer of mandatory life prisoners to serve their terms in their native lands?

This directive affects a former constituent of mine, Sandy Harrington, who appears to be prevented from serving his term in Canada by this directive. In my opinion this is a violation of the treaty between our two countries on this matter.

Hon. Elmer M. MacKay (Solicitor General of Canada): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the distinguished Minister of Justice I will attempt to respond to my colleague's question. As he indicates, this appears to be a policy of the State of Michigan. While it could be in violation of the Transfer of Offenders Treaty between our two countries, I will convey the situation to the Minister of Justice. I can assure the Hon. Member that departmental officials are looking into this to discover whether in fact this is policy or something that can be worked out within the ambit of the Treaty.

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CITIZENSHIP COURTS**HELGA PAIDE**

Mr. Roland de Corneille (Eglinton-Lawrence): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Hon. Secretary of State. Last summer the Prime Minister said that his Government would be determined to reduce partisan political appointments. He said: "We are going to reform this instrument in our national life". How can the Secretary of State possibly square this with the appointment as a citizen court judge, at a salary of \$46,000 a year, of still another Tory, Helga Paide, who for years has been the chief financial officer of the Conservative Party in Ontario?

Mr. Boudria: Helga was paid.