

*S. O. 31*

neighbouring community for its retail postal services. Canada Post is obviously not in rural Canada to stay.

I call on the minister responsible for Canada Post to halt immediately this particular closing and commit the government to the delivery of quality postal service for all rural Canadians by maintaining full service post offices throughout Canada.

\* \* \*

[Translation]

**WHITE CANE WEEK**

**Mr. Marcel R. Tremblay (Québec East):** This being the White Cane Week, Mr. Speaker, I wish to remind my hon. colleagues in the House and the general public that all Canadians have the basic right to participate fully in our society, reach their goals and develop their potential. However, for the 500,000 blind and visually impaired people in Canada, leading a normal life has its problems. To fully participate in the life of their country, citizens of both sexes must have access to the information they need to make wise decisions. Unfortunately, blind and visually handicapped people cannot read printed material.

During this week which is focused on free access to information, we should altogether find out ways to make sure that visually impaired Canadians are fully informed. In this regard, I wish to emphasize the tremendous contribution of the Canadian National Institute for the Blind and the Canadian Council of the Blind who are partners in this quest for universal equality.

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**CANADIAN EXPLORATION INCENTIVE PROGRAM**

**Mr. Guy Saint-Julien (Abitibi):** Mr. Speaker, on May 3, 1988 the Canadian Exploration Incentive Program (CEIP) was announced in response to the concerns voiced by the resource industry. Mining companies were worried about the negative impact of two factors on their ability to raise new capital through the issue of flow-through shares to support exploration activity, namely the stock market crash of October 1987 and the tax reform. That program will terminate on December 31, 1990.

For some months now, the *Association des prospecteurs du Québec* fears that the next federal budget may dump that program. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my constituency of Abitibi a prime mining area, I urge the government to consider seriously the concerns of the Quebec Mining Association and Quebec prospectors.

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**BILL C-21**

**Mr. Jesse Flis (Parkdale—High Park):** Mr. Speaker, our parliamentary system is becoming a farce at the hands of this government. The Unemployment Insurance Bill C-21, has not yet been enacted but the Minister of Employment and Immigration already has asked employers to deduct premiums under the amendments proposed in that bill.

[English]

Mr. Jim O'Harra, a constituent of mine, 76 years of age, is holding down a full-time job to help supplement his pension. He called my office because his employer has already been deducting UI premiums from his pay. The hon. member for St. Boniface has received similar complaints.

When a bill has not received the approval of Parliament, this government has no authority to take money from people who can ill afford to pay these premiums.

[Translation]

I am urging the government to stop that ridiculous action and show a little more respect for Parliament and the people we are representing.

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● (1410)

**RIDING OF CHAMBLY**

**Mr. Jean-Marc Robitaille (Terrebonne):** Mr. Speaker, in the Chambly election the NDP candidate has missed no opportunity to unfairly attack the GST bill, the legislation concerning the sales tax reform on goods and services.

However, the former president of the Automobile Association, that champion of automobile owners, deliberately omitted to inform constituents in Chambly of the savings they will be making when they buy their next cars, thanks to the GST. They will be paying roughly \$800