

MINES AND MINING

FATAL SPILL AT YELLOWKNIFE MINE

Mr. Rod Murphy (Churchill): Mr. Speaker, on July 9, 1984, Gordon Lyle Davidson, aged 28, was killed by a spill of wet material in a Cominco gold mine in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories. This followed an earlier spill on March 17, 1984, that Cominco failed to report. There is now to be a full public inquiry into Davidson's death.

Yesterday the statute of limitations ran out on the earlier spill of March 17, 1984, but the Government failed to lay any prosecutions against Cominco. There is reason to believe that Cominco's failure to provide safeguards resulted in the tragic death. I believe that the statute of limitations should be extended to an inquiry into all circumstances of this case, including checking the actions of the Crown prosecutor and the Coroner's office. Cominco was allowed to escape prosecution, and many barriers were placed in the way of the union's lawyer. The buck passing in this case demonstrates a lack of concern over the rights of workers in the Northwest Territories.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

CANADA-UNITED STATES RELATIONS—QUEBEC SUMMIT
SUCCESS

Mr. Bill Tupper (Nepean-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, this is a proud day for all Canadians as we witness and follow the summit meeting in Quebec City between the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) and President Reagan.

Canadians have been deeply concerned about deteriorating relations in many areas with the United States over the last six to ten years. Canadians are anxious to have a positive and constructive relationship with our American neighbours. The summit meeting was a landmark start in rebuilding that relationship.

Acid rain and the environment are priorities for Canadians and the Government. The appointment of U.S. former Transportation Secretary, Drew Lewis, and former Ontario Premier, Bill Davis, as special envoys to resolve the issue of acid rain is applauded.

To quote the Prime Minister:

We have broken a three-year deadlock by agreeing to our common and shared responsibility to preserve our common environment.

Canadians are fortunate to have a Prime Minister who provides leadership, who resolves problems, and who is bringing a new direction to Canada. The Quebec summit is a splendid example of this leadership.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

S.O. 21
FISHERIES

CANCELLATION OF FISHING VESSEL INSURANCE SCHEME

Mr. George Baker (Gander-Twillingate): Mr. Speaker, I rise to request the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans (Mr. Fraser) to announce this week the reversal of the Government's decision to cancel the fishing vessel insurance scheme, which was announced by the President of the Treasury Board (Mr. de Cotret) and the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson).

The Minister of Fisheries and Oceans has only until the end of this week to make up his mind. Fishermen want to know whether this is the policy of the Government, or whether the Government will pay attention to the objections which have been registered by provincial Governments and all the unions which represent fishermen in our country.

This week is zero hour. I hope that the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans will take the opportunity to make a ministerial statement before Friday and reverse the ill-advised cancellation of the scheme. The decision was reached with no consultation with provincial Governments and fishermen across the country.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

CANADA-UNITED STATES RELATIONS—SUMMIT MEETING
BENEFITS

Mrs. Mary Collins (Capilano): Mr. Speaker, yesterday will go down as a landmark in Canadian history. Not only did we celebrate the six-month anniversary of the swearing in of the new Conservative Government, but on St. Patrick's Day Canadians across the country watched with excitement and anticipation the historic summit meeting in Quebec City between the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) and the President of the United States.

The warmth of the welcome we have shown to the President and his wife has already been well documented in the American press. *The New York Times* has run major stories the last two days reporting to the American people the prospects which have arisen from the meeting for closer ties and understanding between our two countries.

In addition to the substantive discussions which have taken place, which have resulted in new joint plans on acid rain, the air defence accord, trade, military co-operation, and arms control, the meeting will have other long-lasting benefits for relationships not only between the two Governments but between the people of the two lands. It means investment. It means trade. It means tourism. It means jobs. And it means an economic vitality for the two countries.

The people of Canada and the United States who watched or read about the summit meetings will gain a new sense of encouragement and confidence that all of us who share the North American continent can, and will—