

*S. O. 21*

Canada and correct the existing imbalance by promoting increased participation by Francophone scientists in research and science projects.

This is an excellent initiative by our Government, and I want to thank the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources who once again has helped Francophones to take their rightful place in this important field.

The entire scientific community in Quebec was delighted with the announcement, and the Minister, Raymond Savoie, Jacques Desnoyers of INRS and Gilles Boulet, President of the University of Quebec, were enthusiastic.

Once again, our Government has demonstrated its equitable treatment of our country's two language communities.

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● (1410)

### UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

#### OPPORTUNITY TO ESTABLISH TEN WEEKS' ELIGIBILITY PERIOD FOR RURAL REGIONS

**Mr. Fernand Robichaud (Westmorland—Kent):** Mr. Speaker, for some months now I have been urging the government to distinguish rural regions from urban regions when statistics are compiled to determine the number of weeks required to be eligible for unemployment insurance. Unfortunately, the Government is continuing to use a system that is not fair to rural residents. The fact that the unemployment rate is actually twice as high in rural areas is not taken into account by the system. In those areas it is much more difficult to find jobs that last more than 10 weeks especially when one considers that many of those jobs depend on fishing seasons.

The Department of Employment and Immigration has just announced that once again for the next 30 days people living in south-eastern New-Brunswick will have to work 16 weeks to be eligible for unemployment insurance.

That is unfair, Mr. Speaker, and once again I beseech the Minister of Employment and Immigration (Mrs. McDougall) to act and to see to it that the eligibility period for the people of south-eastern New Brunswick is reduced to 10 weeks.

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[English]

### TRADE

#### CANADA-UNITED STATES FREE TRADE AGREEMENT

**Mr. Alan Redway (York East):** Mr. Speaker, it is not surprising that after considering historic, economic, and political implications, some Canadians want to reject the Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement.

After all, Prince Edward Islanders turned down the concept of creating a Canadian nation in 1867, a majority of New Brunswickers voted against it in 1865, and Newfoundlanders rejected the idea several times, all because of the historic, economic, and political implications.

Fortunately for all of us today, including the present free trade opponents, the visionaries, not the timid, prevailed and created Canada. If the visionaries prevail this time the free trade agreement will create a Canada that is economically stronger and politically more self assured than ever before.

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### APARTHEID

#### SOUTH AFRICA—CALL ON GOVERNMENT TO FREE NELSON MANDELA

**Mr. Bill Blaikie (Winnipeg—Birds Hill):** Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the federal New Democratic Party caucus, indeed, I am sure on behalf of all Members of Parliament, I rise to wish Nelson Mandela a happy seventieth birthday, and call on the Government of South Africa to free Nelson Mandela to permit him to take his rightful place in the history of South Africa and play a constructive role in the development of a democratic non-racial South Africa.

This is a day on which all peoples of the world are joining to express their unanimous wish that the South African Government finally wake up to reality, wake up to justice and free Nelson Mandela, and get rid of apartheid to permit the kind of South Africa for which the blacks of South Africa have been working so long, with Nelson Mandela as their leader.

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### IMMIGRATION

#### PROSPECTIVE IMMIGRANTS—CONDUCT OF HEARINGS BY TELEPHONE

**Mr. John Oostrom (Willowdale):** Mr. Speaker, the Federal Court of Appeal has ruled that prospective immigrants overseas have the right to have an immigration hearing by telephone. This added condition will further increase the huge backlog of cases already present in our overburdened immigration system.

Let us consider the ramifications of the ruling. Huge costs will be incurred by the cost of overseas calls, and the amount of overtime that will be incurred due to the time differences between Canada and the rest of the world. Many Third World nations do not have the telecommunication technology and equipment in order to have reliable conference calls. Language will be a major problem. How will translators function over the phone, and what will be the cost?