

riding now, there is a federal office in Val d'Or that will close. This was ordered by the Minister of Finance.

I would like to ask you the following question: Does Ontario now have programs to help mining exploration as now exist in Quebec? According to the 1867 Constitution, mineral resource development is a provincial matter under section 109.

Do you agree that the province of Ontario should do more to help this sector? Because, as you can see, Mr. Speaker, people no longer trust the federal government to help with mining exploration. Even we on this side of the House have to fight every time, every week, to come up with a new program.

Can you tell me whether the province of Ontario has mechanisms in place to help mining exploration in Ontario?

[*English*]

Mr. Nault: Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague for the question. The member for Abitibi has a riding very similar to my riding in northern Ontario. These are ridings that have a lot of economic development initiative and which want to get involved in mainstream economics in Canada. Unfortunately there are some difficulties. One is that Ontario governments, Quebec governments and the federal government are not listening to the regions as it relates to mining.

To answer the member's question simply, I do not think that the province of Ontario, the province of Quebec and, in this case, the federal government have put in place the types of programs that will help the mining industry in Canada to flourish and grow.

What I talked about in my remarks to the House and to the people of northern Ontario is this. If we want regions like northern Ontario and northern Quebec to grow we have to put those types of programs in place.

I have asked my colleagues in Ontario to do something similar to what I have asked the federal government to do, that is to put some initiatives in place like the flow-through share mechanism to allow the junior mining companies to get involved in the industry to the extent of creating employment and getting these mines open. I tell the member opposite that there are 10 mines that are ready to go in northern Ontario but no dollars to put in place to get them going. We have the ability but we

do not have the funding. I ask the federal government, as I have asked the Ontario government, to do that for us.

Mr. René Soetens (Ontario): Mr. Speaker, I rise to participate, appreciating that the other member from Ontario made comments about the fact that the Ontario government has not put in place the mechanisms to allow for the economic development of the mining area in that part of Canada. I recognize he complains that the federal government has not done so either. Yet during the whole process leading up to the current legislation on the goods and services tax, many mining industry executives appeared before the finance committee indicating the positive steps that it would have for exploration development of mines, particularly in Ontario but also in western Canada. So I am a little surprised that the member would comment on that.

I would ask the member to tell us just where and how much money he would like to have the federal government kick into this program. It is certainly very consistent and very common in Ontario that the provincial government of Ontario insists on hiring lots of bureaucrats but does not put any money into programs. Here at the federal level we have a deficit problem. We have to deal with some of the problems that are a legacy of the previous Liberal administration.

I would ask the hon. member just how much money he would like from the federal government. Does he have any suggestions as to how much further he would like us to cut back the provincial transfers to make it possible for this to happen?

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): It being two o'clock the House will now proceed to Statements by Members pursuant to Standing Order 31.

STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S. O. 31

[*Translation*]

YOUTH SUMMER EMPLOYMENT

Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa—Vanier): Mr. Speaker, the Conservative government's nonchalant attitude to Canadian youth is deplorable and unhealthy. Although the 15,000 young people in Ottawa—Vanier, my riding, could count on \$528,000 in 1987 when the Challenge summer employment program began, they will have to share 4 per cent of that amount, or \$23,200,