

B.C. coal. Our trade with China will benefit from the additional \$350 million interest-free financing announced to support Chinese purchases of Canadian goods and services.

The Prime Minister's visit was vital in creating new friendships and understandings between our nations, for it is only from such a base of knowledge and mutual respect that we can build the foundations for expanded trade and investment opportunities on both sides of the Pacific.

* * *

[Translation]

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

NEGOTIATION OF AGREEMENT WITH JAPAN

Mrs. Suzanne Duplessis (Louis-Hébert): Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister announced recently that the Canadian and Japanese governments have negotiated a bilateral agreement on co-operation in the field of science and technology.

The agreement identifies our objectives in this area and provides for a wide variety of joint initiatives, which will have substantial economic benefits for Canada and Japan. Such agreements have always proved to be very profitable for Canada. About 75 joint projects have already been initiated in this way.

Our Government recognizes the importance of research and development for Canada's future, and will continue to promote growth and entrepreneurship in this field.

As the Member for a riding where the technology sector plays a very important role, I am very pleased with this agreement.

* * *

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

FRANCOPHONES' RIGHT TO TRIAL IN FRENCH

Hon. Bob Kaplan (York Centre): Mr. Speaker, on April 15, I asked a question in the House about two Francophone defendants in Newfoundland who were seeking the right to have a trial in French. For the first time in this country's history, our Government has challenged before the courts their right to have a trial in French.

This morning I heard that the two defendants were appealing the decision and that the federal Government insists on having the trial continue in English, without first obtaining a ruling from an appeal court on the question of whether or not they have the right to be heard in French.

Mr. Speaker, the position taken by this Government in this case is shameful, and I would urge the Minister of Justice (Mr. Crosbie) to change that position.

[English]

S.O. 21

IMMIGRATION

REVOCATION OF PERMIT HELD BY BATTERED WIFE

Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry—Prescott—Russell): Mr. Speaker, on April 30 Employment and Immigration Canada sent a letter to Mrs. Helga Muselmann of Hawkesbury, Ontario, stating that she had one month to leave the country because she and her husband were in breach of a ministerial permit.

The breach in question is that the husband has been convicted of a crime. The crime he committed was that he beat up his wife, a crime which the victim rightfully reported to the police. The conclusion is that this woman is now being asked to leave the country because she reported a battering husband.

I call upon the Minister of State for Immigration (Mr. McLean), who is also the Minister responsible for the status of women, to take the necessary steps to allow Helga Muselmann and her children to remain in Canada. Otherwise all immigrant women will conclude that, if they are beaten by their husbands, they had better keep quiet or they will be deported by the Government.

* * *

THE ECONOMY

IMPROVEMENTS IN SASKATCHEWAN

Mr. Don Ravis (Saskatoon East): Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure to share some good news. Today I want to share with the House the Government's latest economic successes. The Bank of Canada rate, set yesterday, is the lowest since 1978. The inflation rate in Canada for April dropped to 3.9 per cent, and unemployment is at a four-year low of 9.6 per cent.

These are figures to make all Canadians rejoice, but I should like to focus on my own Province of Saskatchewan for a moment. In that province our Government is responsible for creating 21,000 new jobs. The economy is booming. Bankruptcies were down 10 per cent last year, and exports in the first three months of 1986 were up 12.7 per cent over the same period last year. Housing starts were up 32 per cent in April compared to April, 1985, and building permits are skyrocketing.

● (1115)

Whatever the Opposition wants to have Canadians believe, these facts speak for themselves. Our economic policies are working, and that is what counts.