

initiated by this Government in an attempt to reopen a mine which was closed down during the Government comprised of the Party of which he has the dubious honour of being a member.

REPORTED OFFER OF SEVERANCE PAY TO EMPLOYEES

Mr. Keith Penner (Cochrane-Superior): Mr. Speaker, the Deputy Prime Minister knows there was \$11 million set aside to try to keep that mine open. It was in the Budget of the last fiscal year and it was taken out of this year's Budget. It is gone.

Today the employees of that mine are being offered severance pay and a moving allowance which will amount to about \$10,000 per employee. I want the Deputy Prime Minister to tell the House if the Government of Canada is offering any direct financial assistance to Dome to move people out of Faro and out of Yukon?

Hon. Erik Nielsen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence): Well, again, as the Hon. Member knows, or should know, that is a matter falling within the responsibility of the Minister of Labour. I, of course, keep current with these affairs from a constituency point of view. His figures are wrong in the first instance with respect to an initiative taken by the mine itself, in which the Government of the day participated, to the extent of \$25 million on either side, with a stripping program.

● (1440)

With respect to the current request by labour for assistance on ending the lock-out and all the assistance which flows from that, that matter is now under the jurisdiction of the Minister of Labour. I hope it is met to the satisfaction of the union which first initiated the request.

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FINANCE

CORPORATE TAX BREAKS

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops-Shuswap): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Finance who has stated that the upcoming Budget is going to be tough, but fair. In the last few days we have heard from a number of business leaders advocating massive cuts in social spending. However, they have been surprisingly mute on corporate welfare, the billions of dollars spent each year on corporate tax breaks. Since these tax breaks are disproportionately beneficial to the upper income earners and to the large capital intensive corporate sector, would the Minister not agree that, for his Budget to be fair, the matter of corporations wallowing in their own federal welfare will have to be addressed?

Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I think the Member's rhetoric is a little too colourful. I have said a number of times in the past that a number of matters

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relating to the question which he has just posed will be addressed in the Budget.

TAX EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops-Shuswap): Mr. Speaker, in 1979 the then Minister of Finance had the courage to bring in a tax expenditure account with his Budget, to enable us to evaluate the pros and cons of the tax expenditures. Will the Minister of Finance follow in the footsteps of his colleague and introduce a tax expenditure account to enable the people of Canada to evaluate how fair his Budget is?

Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member for Laval-des-Rapides referred to my last effort in the House as courageous. Maybe he will do it again.

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ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

NIAGARA RIVER POLLUTION—SUGGESTED ACTION IN UNITED STATES COURTS

Mr. Alan Redway (York East): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of the Environment. The Ontario Government is currently appealing a decision of a United States court which allows toxic chemicals to continue to leak from a storage dump in the United States into the Niagara River and Lake Ontario. Would the Minister tell the House if the Government would be prepared to take action in the American courts to prevent Americans from polluting the Great Lakes? If the Minister feels she wants further negotiations, would the Government consider taking that action after those negotiations have been completed?

[Translation]

Hon. Suzanne Blais-Grenier (Minister of the Environment): Mr. Speaker, since Canada is a sovereign country, I do not think it should use the judicial processes of a foreign country to make those decisions.

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[English]

FINANCE

MINISTER'S MEETING WITH BUSINESSMEN

Hon. Donald J. Johnston (Saint-Henri-Westmount): Mr. Speaker, I would like the Minister of Finance to explain why, days before the Budget, he chose to meet secretly with a privileged group of investors and businessmen as reported in *The Globe and Mail*? Why on earth would he have such a meeting during this sensitive period? Would he kindly tell us who these privileged people were?

Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, the meeting was not sensitive. It was one of a series of meetings that my colleague, the Minister of State for Finance,