

the disabled, business and labour, must be appointed to this Council, and the appointments must be from all political parties. The effectiveness of the Council also depends on access to the Minister responsible for the Status of Women (Mr. McLean) and the political will of the Government to act on the recommendations made by the Council.

Too often in the past the Council's excellent research and recommendations were allowed to gather dust. Accordingly, we recommend that reports made by the Council not only be reported to the House, but also be referred to the appropriate committees for study and action. In order to accomplish that goal I repeat the recommendation which was made by my colleague, the Hon. Member for Vancouver East (Ms. Mitchell), who is the NDP critic for the status of women, that there be a standing committee on women's issues. That would be a means whereby we could advance equality for women as we approach the date for equality, April 17, and the implementation of the Charter of Rights.

Once again, our sincere congratulations to Ms. Gold.

**Mr. Speaker:** I regret to advise the Hon. Member that her time has expired.

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## CURRENCY

### COMPOSITION OF PROPOSED DOLLAR COIN

**Mr. Girve Fretz (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development):** Mr. Speaker, Members are no doubt aware that Canada should have a readily marketable and acceptable dollar coinage. Inco Limited, a company which is vital to the economy not only of my own riding but, indeed, of the entire Province of Ontario, has developed a gold-on-nickel material called nigold. The proposed coin would be multisided, slightly larger than a 25-cent piece, and would weigh less than half the weight of our existing silver dollar, which is not really silver.

The nigold dollar coin would have a three-micron thick plate of gold on a nickel base, which would result in a beautiful golden product possessing great durability. It is understood—and this has been shown by testing—that it will keep its original pleasing appearance for the life of the coin, which is estimated at 40 years.

I understand the issue of the dollar coin will be brought before the Standing Committee on Miscellaneous Estimates. I hope this Committee will give serious consideration to the Inco dollar coin. The existence of such a coin would make it easier for vendors who currently have to deal with massive quantities of coins of smaller denominations, and it would provide many jobs for workers at Inco who are currently laid off.

S.O. 21

[Translation]

## THE ADMINISTRATION

### RATE OF UNEMPLOYMENT IN NEW BRUNSWICK

**Mr. Fernand Robichaud (Westmorland-Kent):** Last September, Mr. Speaker, New Brunswick's ship of state was carried off on a huge blue wave and passengers were in a mood of euphoria. Early in November, however, on a black Thursday evening, the horizon disappeared behind a deep mist which, rather than lift as we had been promised, gradually turned into thick fog.

True enough, Mr. Speaker, the Party opposite had told us that the proposed restraints and many cut-backs would have very little negative impact—if any at all—on the Canadian economy.

It so happens that the number of unemployed is still at an unacceptable level. Unemployment in a riding like mine is a never-ending scourge. We simply cannot afford to have more people out of work—there are too many as it is—yet the unemployment rate has been inching up lately.

Mr. Speaker, that blue wave has carried us far off the coast and we are experiencing increasing difficulty to get back on the right course. I am wondering whether this Government is waiting for a distress signal before reacting.

Talking about challenging new policies, consultation and economic growth is well and good, but the words must have some meaning. To this day, however, all that rhetoric leads us to conclude that the words simply do not reflect daily realities.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I regret to interrupt the Hon. Member, but his time has expired.

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[English]

## FOREIGN INVESTMENT REVIEW AGENCY

### ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW FIRMS IN SOUTHWESTERN ONTARIO

**Mr. Elliott Hardey (Kent):** Mr. Speaker, according to Canadian Press, FIRA has given the go-ahead to five foreign-owned firms to establish auto parts manufacturing plants in southwestern Ontario, and to two other foreign firms wishing to refurbish and lease various types of vehicles in the same area.

The five firms are owned by West German companies; the other two are owned by companies in the States of Michigan and Indiana, in the United States.

● (1115)

This announcement is significant not only to the economy of my riding and southwestern Ontario but to Canada as a whole, because it appears to demonstrate the beneficial effects of the Government's policy of openness to foreign investment, and