

seem rational. The government is concerned with ameliorating the hardships to labour.

As the hon. member for Nickel Belt is well aware, a conference of mines ministers was held on January 20, 1978 to look at the medium-term prospects for the mining industry and how it would be possible for mines ministers to restore confidence in the mining industry. There was general agreement that over the next few years world market conditions will be a major influence on the mining industry of this country.

The ministers discussed several questions under the general topic of mineral sector management and co-ordination. Many subjects were discussed, including the point that it is important to ensure the industry and its employees are getting the maximum benefit from social programs already available. It was agreed that there was a need for a better understanding of

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social factors related to mining employment, particularly in the area of pensions and the desirability or not of portable pensions for industry employees. It was agreed that there is a need for continuing dialogue between ministers. The ministers looked at a number of questions in their separate jurisdictions which they may be able to address for the purpose of reporting to their first ministers' meeting in February.

In the long run a unified effort by both the federal and provincial governments to design measures on a commodity basis is needed to protect industry's viability and expand into new employment areas.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I regret to interrupt the hon. member, but his allotted time has expired. The motion to adjourn the House is now deemed to have been adopted. Therefore this House stands adjourned until tomorrow at two o'clock.

Motion agreed to and the House adjourned at 10.28 p.m.
