

Supply

behave as good corporate citizens or our country, they will remain welcome.

Again only a Progressive Conservative Government is in a position to do this. The aura of suspicion that probably for a generation will linger about the Liberal Party will lead their motives to be questioned as long as that suspicion remains, no matter what the Minister of Finance may try to tell us. I understand he is away now on a mission. Let us hope his mission will be successful.

In my particular area I do not have any producing mines although my riding borders the Minister's riding of Nickel Belt and, therefore, I have a great and abiding interest in the industry. I believe there are some 40,000 people employed in the mining industry of Ontario, if my memory serves me correctly. In northern Ontario people employed in the mining industry total 15 per cent of the work force. Overall in Ontario, the percentage of people employed in the mining industry is much smaller; I believe it is 1 per cent of the labour force. Yet the 1 per cent produces 4 per cent of the Gross Provincial Product. That is certainly a tribute to the work force.

Mining is a capital intensive industry and is a very important industry. I believe the Minister mentioned that the amount of money it generates is significant, some \$11 billion. Therefore the industry is important to the economy.

Ontario is also a significant producer of gold. I believe in 1982 dollars this Province produced some \$25 million in gold. I had the privilege of going through the Minister's riding on Thursday and Friday of this past week with members of the Subcommittee on Acid Rain. We met with officials of the International Nickel Company. I was delighted to learn that the mine is in full production. I was not so delighted to learn that according to the Executive Vice-President, Mr. Walter Curlook, the mine is probably losing a million dollars a day. However, International Nickel is still providing a lot of jobs. Officials also told me that they are going into exploration in a great way. More production is very important. It was not a case of the work force only; Mr. Curlook emphasized that there must be more productivity among the white collar staff and among executives in order for the company to compete, as we are well aware.

I remember years ago, in fact when I went to school, which is a few years ago, that International Nickel produced 95 per cent of the nickel in the world. That was really something. There was no competition. That is a nice deal if you can get it.

Mr. Cullen: That is when I lived there.

Mr. Darling: The Hon. Member for Sarnia (Mr. Cullen) is pointing out that was when he was there. But now production has dropped to 24 per cent of world production and I guess it is hanging on by its fingernails. Our committee was in the area to find out what International Nickel was doing as far as pollution control is concerned. It is spending money, but it will have to spend tremendous amounts of money. The figure is

astronomical, some \$400 million a year by the time International Nickel gets down to allowable emissions of under 1,000 tonnes. International Nickel has dropped its emissions significantly from 7,000 tonnes a day to, I believe, some 1,900 tonnes a day now. We certainly give the company full credit for that. I told the Vice-President that we are all delighted to see the smoke belching out from the chimney of International Nickel again, and I say amen to that; but we want to do everything we can to get the company to reduce emissions as far as sulphur content is concerned.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. It being one o'clock, I do now leave the chair until two o'clock this afternoon.

Mr. Cullen: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. Will the Hon. Member be back after lunch because I have a question for him?

Mr. Jarvis: He is always here.

Mr. Darling: Actually, Mr. Speaker, I will not be here this afternoon because I am flying to Toronto.

At 1.01 p.m. the House took recess.

AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 2 p.m.

STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S.O. 21

[English]

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**HIGH TECHNOLOGY EMPLOYMENT TRAINING FOR LOW INCOME GROUPS**

Mr. Stanley Hudecki (Hamilton West): Madam Speaker, recently the Minister of State for Economic Development (Mr. Johnston) outlined four main objectives of the Government's new policy on technology. One of these objectives was the need to ensure that the benefits of technological development are shared equitably among all Canadians in every region. Some social agencies and community groups fear that the high technology revolution will result in a large number of poor and technologically illiterate, so-called "techno-peasants".

Given the growing importance of high technology, it is necessary that we develop policies at both the federal and provincial levels whereby those in lower income brackets across the country will have good access to high-tech training and job opportunities. The addition of financial and social barriers to training in high technology would be devastating to the chances of those in the lower income strata to gain future employment, and would be devastating to their ability to comprehend the usage, meaning and potential of computers and other high-technology advances.

I urge the federal Government to explore ways of advancing high technology training for lower income groups under the