

S.O. 21

THE CENSUS

CALL FOR REINSTITUTION OF 1986 ENUMERATION

Mr. Howard McCurdy (Windsor-Walkerville): Mr. Speaker, the Romans recognized even in ancient times the indispensable requirement for a census in the determination of public policy. Of course the census counts people, but it appears that to this Government people do not count, at least not until 1991, in view of the announced cancellation of the 1986 census. This action has escaped critical notice until now.

Now we have the Royal Commission Report on Equality in Employment. Its recommendations for legislated employment equity indicate a critical requirement not only for census data but for an expanded data base respecting numbers and employment patterns for women, the disabled, native people, and visible minorities.

Indeed the report is complex and will require time for implementation. However, the Government has an easy way of quickly signalling its commitment to the achievement of employment equity—it must reconsider its cancellation of the 1986 census and implement it with an expanded data base, in light of the additional statistical information necessary for the effective implementation of the Abella report.

This is a step that must be taken. Otherwise, it will again reinforce the impression of the Government that social justice or sacred trusts should not stand in the way of prosperity for the privileged few.

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TOURISM

IMPACT OF GOVERNMENT ACTIONS ON INDUSTRY IN PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

Mr. George Henderson (Egmont): Mr. Speaker, the recent government financial statement contains several changes which are of great concern to the tourism industry on Prince Edward Island, from increases to ferry rates, to increases to the cost of entering and using facilities in our national park, to increases in gasoline prices. The entire industry will in some way be affected.

Applications from the tourism industry for assistance under IRDP will no longer be accepted by DRIE. Instead, the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion (Mr. Stevens) has indicated that tourism projects will be dealt with through instruments such as federal-provincial agreements. I trust the Minister has taken steps to ensure that the tourism industry will be fully represented in the months ahead while the transition from IRDP to the new and as of yet unnamed program is introduced.

It is my sincere hope that the Minister of State for Tourism (Mr. McMillan), as an islander with a great interest in the future of the industry, has brought to the attention of the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney), the Minister of Transport (Mr. Mazankowski), the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion, and the Minister of the Environment (Mrs. Blais-

Grenier), the dire implications that these changes will have on the Prince Edward Island tourism industry, not to mention on islanders themselves.

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NUCLEAR ENERGY

DEMAND FOR PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. Bill Blaikie (Winnipeg-Birds Hill): Mr. Speaker, yesterday I asked the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Miss Carney) if she intended to initiate a parliamentary inquiry into all aspects of the nuclear industry as the Progressive Conservative Government of 1979 intended to undertake. In her response the Minister conveyed two impressions which should be cause for concern on the part of the clear majority of Canadians who are concerned about any further investment in nuclear energy, whether their concern arises from the increasing cost of this energy option, the environmental hazard it poses, or the connection between nuclear power and the nuclear arms race.

The Minister said that she would have to consult with AECL to see if it thought an inquiry would be useful. This is like asking the Mafia if it thinks an investigation into organized crime would be useful. Then she made sense of this incredible answer by commenting that an inquiry might not be in order because, after all, it might only be a problem of marketing. She appears unable to ask the question whether the product should in fact be for sale either here or abroad. In this she has revealed just how uncritical an approach the Conservatives may be taking toward this issue—reminiscent of the Liberals.

● (1410)

I call on the Government to initiate an inquiry into the nuclear industry in consultation with groups like the Canadian Coalition for Nuclear Responsibility, and to reverse the cuts in environmental services, conservation, and alternative energy. Let us have some evidence that we are on the eve of 1985 and not at the beginning of some terrible flashback to 1955.

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INDUSTRY

PETROCHEMICAL INDUSTRY—REACTION TO ECONOMIC STATEMENT

Mr. Ken James (Sarnia-Lambton): Mr. Speaker, the Canadian petrochemical industry was to some extent pleased with the financial statement made in the House by the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson) on November 8. The announcement that the petroleum compensation charge, PCC, would not be increased on crude oil used as a feedstock for the production of petrochemicals, was one the industry had been waiting to hear from the new Government. It has demonstrated the intent of this Government to aid, without resorting to financial bail-outs, an industry that has suffered under an