

telling us not to spend, yet at the same time he asks me to spend more money.

#### TOBACCO GROWERS' DEMANDS

**Mr. Bruce Halliday (Oxford):** Mr. Speaker, the producers and the people who work in the Delhi research station will be disappointed with that answer by the Minister.

One week ago today, some 2,000 tobacco producers gathered in Delhi and sent two resolutions to the Minister, which will have been received in his office by now. They called on the Government to introduce an amendment to the Farm Products Marketing Agencies Act which would permit the consideration of the establishment of a national marketing agency for tobacco, and, second, would enable the National Farm Products Marketing Council to commence public hearings immediately to investigate the establishment of such an agency. How did the Minister respond to those demands? Can those producers expect to hear something positive prior to the recess of this Parliament?

**Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture):** Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member will know that I met with the Chairman of the Tobacco Marketing Board of Ontario last week, and also representatives of the industry, to discuss the problems that he is bringing to the attention of the House. I understand that the Chairman of the Ontario Marketing Board is in Prince Edward Island today to discuss this issue with the tobacco producers in that province. I discussed it with the producers in Prince Edward Island when I was there last week.

I am surprised at the noise the other side is making when they maintain that this is such an important issue. Amendments to the National Farm Products legislation are being drafted. We are advised by the legal authorities that, due to the Charter of Rights, we cannot eliminate anyone from that Act. At the present time some of those people can probably lay claim to being discriminated against because it limits certain products that could use supply and management under that Act. The tobacco producers know that, when amendments are made, all groups, whether they are tobacco producers or whatever, will be included. Mrs. Menzies, the Chairman of the National Farm Products Marketing Board, has authority to hold hearings without any direction from me. However, I did talk to her about it, and she is proceeding along those lines.

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● (1450)

#### INDIAN AFFAIRS

##### UNEMPLOYMENT ON RESERVES

**Mr. Jim Fulton (Skeena):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. Four years ago the Minister promised a \$345 million economic development fund. It was promised again in 1981, and he and his Cabinet colleagues promised it again in 1982 and 1983. As I believe the Indian people across the

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country know, not one dollar of that \$345 million fund was ever put in place.

Would the Minister confirm that the economic development policies of his Department, along with those of his colleague, the Minister of Employment and Immigration, have created a situation where over the last four years, the level of unemployment among native people on reserves has gone up rather than down?

**Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development):** Mr. Speaker, I thought the Hon. Member was aware that there has been a substantial increase in funding by the Government to the Indian people over the course of the last four years. This is not even taking into account the increase in expenditures emanating from my colleague, the Minister of Employment and Immigration. Millions of dollars have gone into housing alone. One year we tripled the budget for housing. Now it is doubled. The Hon. Member can understand the tremendous employment which that generates, and that is just one item.

I would also indicate that there have been great expenditures in the whole land claim area, which lays an economic underpinning for many of the Indian communities. As the Hon. Member knows. That in turn generates employment.

**Ms. Jewett:** For whom?

**Mr. Munro (Hamilton East):** Therefore, I cannot agree with the premise of the Hon. Member at all, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Fulton:** Mr. Speaker, I am sure all Members of this House are aware that the level of unemployment among native people is now between five and six times above the national average.

#### EVALUATION OF MEGAPROJECTS' IMPACT ON NATIVE PEOPLE

**Mr. Jim Fulton (Skeena):** My supplementary question, Mr. Speaker, is in the same area. The Minister last year terminated megaproject impact funds. I wonder if he would stand up and tell this House why, even though it has gone through Treasury Board, not one dollar has been released in terms of evaluating projects like Kemano-II, B.C. offshore drilling, the damming of the Stikine River, and Klappan coal? The list goes on all across Canada. As the Minister knows, the World Council of Churches describes the kinds of developments which are going on in northern Alberta as being genocide. Where is the money? What is all this rhetoric which the Minister is peddling across the country?

**Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development):** I do not know, Mr. Speaker, about the "rhetoric" I am peddling across the country—

**Mr. Nielsen:** Neither does anyone else.

**Mr. Munro (Hamilton East):**—but if the Hon. Member is talking about the economic development fund he should be aware by now, after all this time, that the Minister responsible