

respect to both the organization of the Manitoba Indian Brotherhood and their financial situation.

What my colleague, the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, and I have tried to do today is to work out a plan that is both sensible and helpful in the situation. I think it was a very useful meeting with the representatives and the chief this morning. Tomorrow there is to be a full-scale meeting, and I believe that by the end of the day tomorrow we will be well on the road to putting things in order so that the MIB can function effectively.

* * *

EMPLOYMENT

THE BUDGET—EFFECT ON EMPLOYMENT STRATEGY FOR WOMEN

Mrs. Ursula Appolloni (York South-Weston): Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to the Minister of Employment and Immigration. Does the budget proposal to allow men to gainfully employ their wives represent the sum total of the entire employment strategy for women long promised by the Conservative government and, if not, when can the women of Canada hope that the minister's many previous pious utterances on this subject may acquire some substance?

Hon. Ron Atkey (Minister of Employment and Immigration): The point to which the hon. member has referred in the budget address of my colleague, the Minister of Finance, is an important one, but she well knows that it is not by any means the only commitment to the employment of women that this government has made and will be making. I suggest to the hon. member, through you, Mr. Speaker, that the hon. member stay in the House later this afternoon, when she may well hear further details of the employment strategy of this government relating to women.

* * *

THE BUDGET

REASON FOR INCREASING TAX ON GASOLINE

Hon. Herb Gray (Windsor West): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Finance. The Prime Minister said in the House in 1975, when he was still member for Rocky Mountain, that an excise tax on gasoline is "very unfair", "inequitable", and would be something that would "hit the little guy".

I want to ask the minister why the government is imposing a tax increase of 18 cents a gallon that, to use the Prime Minister's own words, is unfair, inequitable and would hit the little guy, since even when the proposed refundable tax credit is fully phased in, it would return less than half—perhaps a third—of the amount collected in excise tax, and the full credit would not be paid at all to taxpayers, to the little guys of this country, until two years have gone by.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Oral Questions

Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, in 1975 the hon. gentleman's government imposed a 10-cent excise tax on gasoline—8 cents less than the tax we are planning to impose in our budget—without any tax credit relief to the Canadian people; and when they did that I did not hear the hon. gentlemen moaning, groaning, wailing, gnashing their teeth and spilling crocodile tears as they are now.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

[Translation]

INQUIRY WHETHER WOODSMEN WILL RECEIVE TEN-CENT EXCISE TAX REBATE ON GASOLINE

Hon. Pierre De Bané (Matapédia-Matane): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Finance.

I would like, first of all, to thank the hon. Minister of Finance and the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion for having included in the budget the suggestion made by my colleagues and myself concerning tax incentives for the Gaspé peninsula and the Atlantic region.

I would like to ask the hon. Minister of Finance whether the rebate for farmers, fishermen and local public transit systems will also apply to forest workers. Let me explain: as you know, these workers are either full-time farmers who work as woodcutters occasionally or full-time lumbermen. In my area, the North Shore—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Will the hon. member ask his question?

Mr. De Bané: Will forest workers benefit from this 10-cent rebate on the excise tax as well as the farmers who also work as lumbermen?

[English]

Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, the exemption applies to farmers in connection with their off-highway activities, to fishermen in connection with the operation of their fishing vessels, and to urban mass transit systems. It does not apply to forest workers. We had to ask everyone to bear an equal part of these increasing costs, the same as do forest workers in the United States and other countries who have to bear these increased costs which are, due to a vanishing resource, becoming more and more expensive.

* * *

BROADCASTING

TELEVISIONING OF FORTHCOMING LIBERAL CONVENTION

Mr. Bob Lane (Winnipeg-St. James): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Secretary of State. In view of the fact that the Liberal party convention was booked into the Winnipeg convention centre prior to December 6 of last week, and in