

Questions on the Order Paper

[Translation]

PLANNED EMPLOYMENT PROJECTS—INCLUSION OF HOMES OF THE ELDERLY, HANDICAPPED AND SICK

Hon. André Ouellet (Papineau): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present a petition from residents of my constituency of Papineau who wish to express to the Government their profound disagreement with the instructions given by the Minister of Employment and Immigration (Miss MacDonald) about the eligibility of home maintenance projects under the employment planning program. My constituents believe that these projects have been rejected without a good reason and without taking into account the possible impact of this decision on the sick, the handicapped and the elderly.

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[English]

QUESTION ON THE ORDER PAPER

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.)

Mr. Doug Lewis (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, I would like to advise the House that question No. 527 will be answered today.

[Text]

DEVELOPMENT OF NORTHEAST B.C. COAL FIELDS

Question No. 527—**Mr. Broadbent:**

1. In the past seven years, what has been the total cost in (a) total tonnage (b) price per tonne, by area, of federal assistance in the development of the northeast British Columbia coal fields?

2. What employment levels were projected as a consequence of the government's support, and what are the current projections?

3. What studies were undertaken by the government prior to 1981, and subsequently, to determine the impact of the development of the northeast coal fields upon production and employment levels in the southeast coal fields?

Mr. John McDermid (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): 1. (a) and (b) Federal financial involvement in the development of the northeast B.C. coal fields took several forms:

(i) Direct Contribution: The federal Government funded 50 per cent of some of the costs of building access roads to Ridley Island. The cost of these roads was originally set at \$10 million, of which the federal contribution was to be \$5 million.

(ii) Recoverable Contributions: Two contributions involved \$73 million of federal funds. About \$50 million was set aside for site infrastructure costs for the coal terminal from the federal Consolidated Revenue Fund and is recoverable beginning in 1989; and 23 million was provided to Canada Ports Corporation to purchase equity preferred shares in Ridley Terminals Incorporated.

(iii) Loan Guarantee: The federal Government guaranteed a \$200 million loan with a commercial bank for Ridley Terminals Incorporated to cover slightly over 80 per cent of the construction costs.

(iv) The federal Government provided \$5 million through three government departments and agencies toward research development and demonstration (RD&D) work related to the electrification of part of the new railway spur line between the new mines and the existing British Columbia Railway line north of Prince George.

(v) Some federal money was also provided for social infrastructure facilities in the new town of Tumbler Ridge which was constructed to house the employees of the new mines.

Total exports from the two northeast B.C. coal mines since their initiation in 1984 and up to November, 1985 were 11.7 million tonnes. The contract tonnages for these mines were set at 69.5 million tonnes for Denison's Quintette Mine and 24.4 million tonnes for Teck Corporation's Bullmoose Mine over an initial 14.5 year period.

2. The Manpower Demand and Supply for the Northeast Coal Developments study predicted that the Teck Corporation's Bullmoose Mine would require 491 employees and Denison's Quintette Mine would require approximately 1,500 employees upon reaching full production in 1985.

According to the 1985 Coal Association of Canada Review and Directory, employment at the Bullmoose Mine is listed at 450 people and at 1,440 people for the Quintette Mine.

3. In 1977, under the terms of two Canada-British Columbia subsidiary agreements, a large number of studies were undertaken to examine the impacts of proposed northeast development. Many of these studies consisted of highly confidential information which the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources does not have access to.

However, as part of these larger studies, the demands for and supply of miners required for the new northeast mines were evaluated. These analyses pointed to a potential shortage of miners in some trades and predicted that there would be some movements for the established southeast mines to the northeast. The studies also postulated that, as a result of the development in northeast British Columbia, growth in the southeast mines might be slower than would have been the case had some of that tonnage been purchased in the southeast.

[English]

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, I ask that the remaining questions be allowed to stand.

Mr. Speaker: The question enumerated by the Parliamentary Secretary has been answered. Shall the remaining questions be allowed to stand?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

● (1110)

Mr. Lewis: Point of order, if I may.

Mr. Speaker: To revert to tabling?