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was an elaboration of her abdication of ministerial responsibility and lack of vision, when she read a 28-page report containing 27 new questions.

Among them she posed the earth-shattering question: "What is a television program?" while asking for further guidance on the impact of technology, and how to find incentives for Canadian programming content. These are all interesting but not germane to the major concerns of this \$8 billion industry.

The Minister's fascination with technology has prompted her to forget that it is only a means to an end and not an end in itself.

The Minister seems to expect that time, the CRTC, and 25 applications for specialty service licences will stand still while she makes up her mind about the kind of broad general policy she believes should guide us and viewers and what they see on our TV screen. At this critical juncture in the broadcast industry's history, we need more answers from the Minister, not more questions.

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INDIAN AFFAIRS

WHYCOCOMAGH INDIAN BAND—SETTLEMENT OF LAND CLAIM ADVOCATED

Mr. Lawrence I. O'Neil (Cape Breton Highlands—Canso): Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development to conclude negotiations with the Whycomomagh Indian Band Council.

The claim itself was admitted in 1984. There is no dispute as to the liability of the Government of Canada to these native people for land that was wrongly taken. A lengthy and detailed appraisal process has been agreed to and settled. It is now time for the Government to make an offer.

This band has strong leadership. Chief Googoo and his council want to invest the proceeds from the settlement in developments that will benefit their membership. This will also benefit the entire region.

These people have been patient. It is now time for real action. To date, successive changes by the Department of Justice as to which lawyer will handle the file have frustrated efforts to conclude the matter. Internal bureaucratic transfers and promotions do not justify these delays.

I look forward to news from the Department that bona fide negotiations have been resumed and that a bona fide offer has been made to my constituents.

• (1410)

NATURAL RESOURCES

NECHAKO RIVER—CRITICISM OF AGREEMENT ON WATER FLOW LEVELS

Mr. Jim Manly (Cowichan—Malahat—The Islands): Mr. Speaker, while the out-of-court settlement between Alcan and the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans (Mr. Siddon) preserves the Nanika River which flows into the Morice and Skeena systems, it does so at a very high cost to the Nechako, one of the main tributaries of the Fraser River. The agreement will reduce water flow on the Nechako to 58 per cent of the minimum flow required for Chinook salmon.

Alcan has made vague promises about industrial development in northern British Columbia but it has no plans to develop a new smelter in the area, and the agreement has absolutely no job guarantee. At the same time the agreement ignores the present or potential needs of downstream users such as irrigation farmers. The Water Control Board does not have a representative on it of the commercial fishing industry.

At the very least the Minister should ask the Standing Committee on Fisheries and Oceans to travel to northern British Columbia and hold hearings on the agreement. We must make sure that vital public questions about fishing runs on the Nechako, job guarantees, and downstream users have adequate answers.

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[Translation]

HOUSING

SAGUENAY—LAC-SAINT-JEAN REGION—WAITING LISTS—GOVERNMENT'S PERFORMANCE

Mr. Clément M. Côté (Lac-Saint-Jean): Mr. Speaker, last Friday 80-odd representatives of the Saguenay—Lac-Saint-Jean housing municipal offices gathered for a regional conference in Alma in my riding.

The representatives took this opportunity to emphasize the problem of waiting lists. Like them I consider that the shortage of low-priced housing units is very serious, and I would suggest it is particularly important to raise the issue in this year of the homeless.

Still it is interesting to note that our Government has made a tremendous effort since 1984, so much so that in the riding I represent we have invested in excess of \$6 million to build or manage this kind of housing units for families and elderly people. I intend to continue to defend the rights of these people so that additional funds be earmarked for my riding.