

settlements for existing bands with existing community infrastructure.

In the case of the Sturgeon Lake Band, the "new adherents" to the band covered by this settlement reached earlier this year, accounted for an average of almost \$180,000 each in compensation and about 477 acres per person of land with sub-surface rights. Applied to the 500 plus Lubicon people, those numbers would result in a compensation package worth almost \$90 million and a land entitlement of 373 square miles. In fact, the Lubicon people are asking for less than a quarter of that amount of land, about 80 square miles, and a little less than twice that much money, about \$170 million. Hardly greedy, hardly vexatious, hardly out of line at all.

Or take the example, also from this year, of the Whitefish Lake Band. The 117 acres of land accorded each of its "new adherents", along with the more than \$400,000 per person compensation package, would work out to 91.4 square miles for the 500-plus Lubicons and a compensation package of more than \$200 million. In both instances more than the Lubicon are asking for.

A similar prorating of the comprehensive settlement negotiated with the Inuit of the central and western Arctic earlier this year would give the Lubicon a meagre \$17 million in compensation but a whopping 409 square miles of reserve land. And a similar prorating of the comprehensive settlement achieved last year with the Yukon Indians would grant the Lubicon Band \$18.7 million in compensation and a gigantic 1,250 square miles of land.

• (1915)

So, it is clear that the proposals of the Lubicon people are reasonable and eminently suitable for the negotiation of a fair settlement. But the House need not take my word alone for this.

Alberta Premier, Don Getty, not a man known for the reckless indulgence of the wants and wishes of the less powerful and wealthy in our society, has himself labelled the government's offer, "deficient in the area of providing economic stability for the future". Even he acknowledges that, "if you don't also build into your planning the ability to have businesses, farms, that type of thing—that will allow you to get economic development out into the future, you are going to merely have a pocket of dependency."

Adjournment Debate

That, in fact, hits the very nub of the great problem with the government's current offer of last January. It is sufficient to create an economy of perpetual dependence, an economy of welfare payments, modest employment, mostly on job training programs designed to qualify people for UI payments, an economy of privation and despair, but it is not sufficient to allow the Lubicon people to create an economy of self-sufficiency, an economy in which their own productive efforts will prove sufficient to allow them to fend for themselves and retain and enhance their own unique society.

Is it any wonder then that the Lubicon people are willing to fight for a decent settlement? Is it any wonder that they are prepared to close off fossil fuel production on their lands? Is it any wonder that they are willing to blockade roads? Is it any wonder that they are willing to enlist the aid of sympathizers around the globe?

The federal government is fighting for a few million dollars. The Lubicon people are fighting for their very lives and the lives of their people for all time to come. All that is required for them to secure their future is a bit of generosity and good will, a bit of fairness and a sense of justice on this government's part. So far, to the shame of all Canadians, it seems, that has been too much to ask.

And so again I ask the parliamentary secretary, will the government direct its officials to make clear and announce the government's willingness now to resume negotiations with the Lubicon on all aspects of their claim including a compensation package, or will its heart remain as hard as that of the Bible's Pharaoh, a truly beknighted gentleman whom, increasingly, the government comes to resemble.

Mr. Bill Kempling (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Employment and Immigration): Madam Speaker, that is quite an act to follow.

The member from Edmonton East has said that the Lubicon Lake band has, by threat, forced the shutting down of oil production, I use his words, "on their traditional lands." The fact is that 18 wells have been shut in. They are not in the 95 square miles the band has selected as its reserve. As to traditional lands, they are also the traditional lands of other native communities. In fact, I am informed most of the wells are near the trap lines registered to members of the Woodland Cree band. There will be perhaps 100 families living on the Lubicon reserve. They are the twenty-ninth largest band in the province and they will have the sixth largest reserve.