

Oral Questions

Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada): Mr. Speaker, it may well be that there are more bad guys in Ontario than there are elsewhere.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

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REGIONAL INDUSTRIAL EXPANSION**UNEMPLOYMENT FORMULA APPLICABLE TO BRITISH COLUMBIA**

Mr. Jim Manly (Cowichan-Malahat-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Hon. Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion. The tier system for the Regional Industrial Expansion Program continues to discriminate against British Columbia, a province which has an unemployment rate of 15.1 per cent, the third highest in Canada. While 43 out of 46 areas in the Atlantic provinces have been designated tiers 3 and 4, the tiers which receive maximum help, and 60 out of 76 areas in Quebec have been designated as tiers 3 and 4, only one area out of 29 in British Columbia has been designated tier 3. Will the Minister make changes to the tier designation formula in order to give adequate recognition to actual rates of unemployment, so that British Columbia will get its fair share under this program?

Hon. Sinclair Stevens (Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion): Mr. Speaker, in reply to the Hon. Member I would like first to indicate to him that we find most distressing the present unemployment level that exists in British Columbia. He will be pleased to know that this Friday I will be meeting with British Columbia governmental officials with a view to signing a new Economic Regional Development Agreement between the federal Government and the Province of British Columbia. This agreement will undoubtedly have subagreements following it that will hopefully relieve some of the unemployment to which the Hon. Member is referring.

Mr. Manly: Mr. Speaker, any help that the Minister can give to the repressive Government of British Columbia would be most welcome.

FUNDING FOR PROGRAM

Mr. Jim Manly (Cowichan-Malahat-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, if the Minister is not willing to change the tier designation formula, is he at least willing to reconsider his plan to cut \$525 million from Tier 1 communities over the next three years? Under the present system, British Columbia is being discriminated against in two ways. First, it is given the low tier designations and, second, it is not receiving the benefits from Tier 1 designation. Will the Minister reconsider?

Hon. Sinclair Stevens (Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion): Mr. Speaker, again in reply to the Hon. Member, I would indicate that the reduction to which he refers is one which is not a reduction to the present year's expenditures.

Next year, the present year's expenditures will rise by the 35 per cent indicated.

I can assure the Hon. Member that, with respect to the designation of tiers, these are always under review and are dependent upon the data that we receive from Statistics Canada. If there are data with respect to the unemployment situation to confirm that tier designations should be adjusted, we, of course, will do so without any delay.

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IMMIGRATION**AVAILABILITY OF COUNSEL FOR POTENTIAL IMMIGRANTS**

Mrs. Pauline Browes (Scarborough Centre): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Employment and Immigration. Is it correct that the Immigration Department recently issued a policy directive which will prohibit potential immigrants from having legal or non-legal counsel present during preliminary interviews at Canadian points of entry? Why was this policy directive issued? What has been the past practice of the Department with regard to allowing counsel in this situation?

Hon. Flora MacDonald (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, there has been no change in policy whatsoever. When people enter this country they meet first with persons who interview everyone entering the country. If, for any reason, these people are passed on to a second stage of interview, they are then allowed to retain counsel. There has been no change from the practices that formerly existed.

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● (1450)

NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL**BUDGET REDUCTION**

Mr. David Berger (Laurier): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of State for Science and Technology. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate him on his appointment to that important position. In answer to a question last Tuesday the Minister stated that the decisions which were announced by the Minister of Finance were discussed fully with senior officials at the National Research Council. The Secretary-General of the NRC was later in the week reported as saying that the decisions about what program cuts would be made to fulfil the budget reduction were made by the Government, not the agency. Can the Minister explain this discrepancy, and will he admit that the cuts were made blindly without a proper regard to their effect?

Hon. Thomas Siddon (Minister of State for Science and Technology): Mr. Speaker, I would like to compliment the Hon. Member for Laurier on his appointment. In response to his question, I must indicate that he is, of course, incorrect. Indeed, we sought advice from senior officials of the National