

Adjournment Debate

By the end of 1990, of the 427 employees then laid off at Denison Mines, 351 had positive plans for employment or training and 53 were taking early retirement.

The government is also helping Elliot Lake through the Community Futures Program.

In August 1990 a \$1 million training program and relocation assistance were allocated to Elliot Lake under this program.

In November 1990 the Minister of Employment and Immigration announced additional funding of \$1.7 million. This meant more training programs, relocation and adjustment assistance for workers who lost their jobs.

For the fiscal year now ending our total commitment to Elliot Lake and nearby communities is well over \$9 million.

The member is aware that an application for further funding under the Community Futures Program has been submitted. It is now being reviewed by the minister's office and every consideration will be given to this application.

• (1810)

Finally, the member should be aware that beginning in April 1991, the claimant re-employment strategy will be in operation in all our Canada Employment Centres. A claimant re-employment strategy is a simple yet efficient procedure that will be delivered through our Canada Employment Centres to assist workers.

This process enables UI recipients to meet with employment counsellors and discuss in detail their particular training and employment assistance needs. This assistance will be there right at the very beginning of the employment period.

Anybody can see that Denison Mine workers who were laid off will and have received assistance to help them through this difficult period.

THE ENVIRONMENT

Mr. Lyle Dean MacWilliam (Okanagan—Shuswap): Mr. Speaker, the question that I raised some time ago, as a matter of fact it was back in November 1990, was a question regarding the future of the Fraser River Estuary Management Program. For the information of the House and people listening, the Fraser River Estuary Management Program was a five-year joint federal-pro-

vincial program of which there were five different funding components. The majority of those components were through different ministries of the federal government as well as ministries of the provincial government.

That funding has essentially come to an end and the reason that I posed the question in November 1990 was that the funding was essentially wrapping up in December of that year. The five-year funding was essentially grinding to a halt. That funding has now come to a halt, although I understand there have been some limited extensions of that funding.

I might point out that the reason for the Fraser River Estuary Management Program was to look at the environmental health of the Fraser River and to try to come up with a system of monitoring the environmental parameters as well as monitoring the health of the foreshore around the river.

It has been fairly successful. It has been a program that has worked and has worked reasonably well. There has been a lot of scientific data that have been brought to use as a result of the last five years that the program has been in place. The problem is, and now we have passed that December deadline, that essentially the funding has now run its course. The five-year mandate was up in December 1990.

I understand that there is a retroactive clause which can be applied and under which funding can be extended to some degree. I understand that there has been a three-month extension for the program. That three-month extension I might add comes to an end on March 31, 1991, and we are now at March 26 of that year. We have only a matter of days left before in fact that extension has run its course.

I understand there have been a number of deliberations between the Fraser River Estuary Management officials as well as the federal and provincial governments looking at extending the funding. I want to point out that in the recent green plan, which is the environmental document of the federal government, with regard to the Fraser River basin there is very little mentioned. In fact nothing is really mentioned in terms of ongoing funding for the Fraser River Estuary Management Program. It does give reference to it. It says co-operative mechanisms such as the Fraser River Estuary Manage-