

S.O. 21

LABOUR CONDITIONS

UNEMPLOYMENT IN MANITOBA—TRIBUTE TO NEW
DEMOCRATIC PARTY'S ECONOMIC POLICY

Mr. Bill Blaikie (Winnipeg-Birds Hill): Mr. Speaker, when the NDP Government in Manitoba was elected in 1981 the rate of unemployment in Manitoba was higher than that of Saskatchewan and Alberta, thanks to the Tory economic policies of the provincial Government that was defeated in that election. Thanks to continuing Tory economic policy in Alberta, and thanks to the policies of the new Conservative Government in Saskatchewan, we note today that the province with the lowest rate of unemployment in the country is the Province of Manitoba, thanks to NDP economic policy in that province.

Mr. McDermid: Tell us how many left the province.

Mr. Blaikie: Many are coming back, now that we have an NDP Government. The Minister of Finance (Mr. Lalonde) is fond of saying that we in the NDP are in fairyland when we admonish him to make unemployment the first priority of his Government. Perhaps it is the Minister of Finance who is really in fairyland. Perhaps he should take a lesson from the Government of Manitoba which has made job creation and fighting unemployment a number one priority, and is being successful at it.

* * *

LABOUR CONDITIONS

INCREASE IN UNEMPLOYMENT—PLIGHT OF WOMEN

Mr. Stan Darling (Parry Sound-Muskoka): Mr. Speaker, statistics released this morning confirm the worst fears of Canadians. There are an additional 64,000 persons out of work, most of whom reside in Ontario and the Prairies. Instead of improving, the jobless rate is falling into a dark abyss paved by the Liberal Government. Something has gone seriously awry when a country this size has 1.3 million registered unemployed and another .5 million who are not counted.

Long term unemployment has become a way of life, to the point where many people have given up looking for work. More heads of households are without jobs than ever before, and the suffering is no doubt felt by each member of a family. There is now more unemployment per capita here than in the United States. As a result, housing starts are down, and manufacturing is reeling from the blow.

What about the huge influx of students hitting the work force within weeks? The meagre attempts at job creation and employer perks offered by the Government are mere band-aid treatment for a malady which requires major surgery. Job availability for women is also finding its way into the abyss. In a time when we strive for equality, women cannot find non traditional work. Instead, many talented woman are forced into traditional female postings, that is if they can find work at all.

The Government is forgetting the people it represents. Ministers are so caught up in preparing for an election they are going to lose—

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Member's time has expired.

* * *

PUBLIC SERVICE

CONFLICT OF INTEREST GUIDELINES—APPLICATION TO
FORMER OFFICIALS

Mr. Howard Crosby (Halifax West): Mr. Speaker, this week Canadians witnessed the crass spectacle of a highly placed public servant, Michael Kirby, caught in the act of violating the Prime Minister's (Mr. Trudeau) conflict of interest guidelines governing post-employment activity. Canadians should ask whether parliamentarians and public officials observe any standards of conduct beyond the criminal laws imposed on all citizens. The sad part of the Kirby fiasco is that he claimed not to know the substance of the guiding rules nor the terms of their application. That is a poor commentary on his former superior, the Prime Minister. We had better look at other senior and well placed public officials who now fish in other waters for monetary rewards.

Does Jim Coutts know about the conflict rules and their application? Is Michael Pitfield now imparting privileged information and knowledge as he practises the fine art of consulting? It is reported that Senator Perrault is mixing sports pools and baseball franchises. We all remember—

Mr. Speaker: It is not usual to permit references to individual members of the other place by name in that manner.

* * *

● (1115)

INDIAN AFFAIRS

PLEA ON BEHALF OF LUBICON BAND IN ALBERTA

Mr. Jim Manly (Cowichan-Malahat-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, last fall the World Council of Churches, under its Program to Combat Racism, wrote to the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) and warned him of the "genocidal consequences" of oil exploration practices in the Lubicon Lake area of northern Alberta. The 300 Crees of the Lubicon Band have never had a reserve set aside for them, although this has been promised for years.

Now, instead of recognizing their aboriginal rights to their traditional land base, the Alberta Government treats them like squatters. In an attempt to subvert their land claim, the Conservative Government there has tried to persuade Indians to sign up for two-acre plots of land.

Exploration and drilling rights have been given to oil companies and these activities have totally disrupted the traditional hunting and trapping economy.