

Beyond these general points, Canada has not taken a decision regarding possible participation in the proposed U.S.A. BMD programs. We have indicated our willingness to engage in consultations with the United States concerning the details of the American proposal and its implications for Canada.

The views of other countries will also be of interest and this process is likely to take some time. Canada has long enjoyed a close bilateral defence relationship with the United States, particularly in NORAD, and ballistic missile defence is not a NORAD function.

Any changes to NORAD's mandate would have to be the subject of negotiations between the United States and Canadian governments and neither side has indicated any intention to reopen the agreement which, under its present terms, was renewed for five years in May 1991.

DENISON MINES

Mr. Maurice Foster (Algoma): Mr. Speaker, on March 10 I put a question to the Minister of Employment and Immigration because at that time we had received an announcement that Denison Mines in Elliot Lake would be laying off 1,000 workers during the ensuing few weeks.

This represents a tremendous blow to this community of some 13,000 people. Over 80 per cent of the mining labour force has been laid off in the last two and a half years. Earlier in 1990 there were some 2,400 people laid off at the two operating mines, Denison and Rio Algom in that community.

I asked the Minister of Employment and Immigration what action would be taken because the government has been providing very substantial funding for the 2,400 who had been laid off previously. I am told that in the 1991-92 fiscal year some \$2.3 million had been provided for adjustment and training of workers who had been laid off.

I have been advised by the Community Futures officer, Mr. Craege McQuarrie, last evening that their estimates now will be only some \$600,000. What the government should be doing is increasing the last year's funding by some 50 per cent rather than cutting it by 75 per cent as seems to be the case.

The minister was quite forthcoming in his response in the House. He said: "I know this is a serious blow to that community and I am ready to work with the hon. member and officials of my department are ready to sit down with those people to see how we can help them adjust to the situation in question". I hope this evening

Adjournment Debate

the parliamentary secretary will be able to come forward and say yes, the minister was not talking through his hat. The minister meant what he said in the House on March 10. He is committed to providing the additional funding that will be required for training, for not only pre-vocational training at the high school level, for the literacy training at the elementary level, but also for the community college courses and the skill courses.

This is a community with many thousands of men and women who require this kind of training and upgrading. The government talks about providing increased training and adjustment funds but, there have been serious cutbacks. We only have to listen to Question Period to know that there have been serious cutbacks.

We want the government to live up to the commitment that the minister made in the House a few weeks ago and say that it will provide these additional training allowances and support programs to help adjust the lives of these miners who were laid off at Denison Mines and Rio Algom Mines during this past couple of years.

It is not only important that the funds be provided but that they be provided in a flexible way so that people can receive the assistance they need and get it in an orderly way so it does not turn their personal lives into turmoil, as has occurred in many cases in the past.

Mr. Murray Cardiff (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, Employment and Immigration Canada offers a wide range of programs and services to assist unemployed individuals in the Elliot Lake area.

These programs and services have proven very successful throughout the country in helping unemployed individuals and communities facing economic difficulties.

Through the Canadian Jobs Strategy, Employment and Immigration Canada provided the Elliot Lake region with more than \$8 million in assistance in 1989-90 and another \$8 million was budgeted in 1991-92.

Last year the Canada Employment Centre staff was increased in Elliot Lake to provide additional counselling services in the areas of training and mobility to meet the needs of the laid-off workers at Denison Mines.

There are several programs and committees in place now to deal with the recent lay-offs at Denison Mines. The joint consultative committee is up and running, the Community Futures Program is already in place and a Canada Employment and Immigration Centre joint planning group made up of regional Canada Employment Centres and adjustment services staff has been established.