

*Indian Affairs*

program administration costs). The average potential fuel saving identified by the audit is currently equivalent to about 11 barrels of oil per year per home.

## POTASH-NATURAL PRODUCTS TERMINAL

Question No. 1,577—**Mr. Howie:**

Has the site selection been made for the new Potash-Natural Products Terminal at or near Courtenay Bay in Saint John Harbour, New Brunswick and, if so, what is the site and what was the cost of the acquisition?

**Mr. Robert Bockstael (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Transport):** The National Harbours Board advises as follows: a site south of the Board Street wharf in Courtenay Bay has been selected for the development of a single or multi-user bulk handling facility for the export of potash. This property is already under the jurisdiction of the National Harbours Board and therefore no acquisition costs are involved.

## WIDOWS' PENSIONS

Question No. 1,677—**Mr. McKenzie:**

1. How many widows have received a pension since the passage of Bill C-40 of the first session of the Thirty-second Parliament?

2. How many widows are estimated to be eligible for pension in (a) 1982 (b) 1983 (c) 1984 (d) 1985 (e) 1986 (f) 1987 as a result of the passage of the bill?

**Mr. John Campbell (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Veterans Affairs):** 1. Eighty-five—as at October 31, 1980.

2. (a) 800
- (b) 2,000
- (c) 1,800
- (d) 4,100
- (e) 3,400
- (f) 12,500

[English]

**Madam Speaker:** The questions enumerated by the hon. parliamentary secretary have been answered. Shall the remaining questions stand?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

## GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

## BUSINESS OF SUPPLY

ALLOTTED DAY S.O. 58—ALLEGED FAILURE TO PROMOTE INDIAN SELF-RELIANCE

**Mr. Stan Schellenberger (Wetaskiwin)** moved:

That this House condemns the continued failure of the government to promote Indian self-reliance and the continued failure to protect the culture, language and health of Canada's Indian peoples.

He said: Madam Speaker, after spending a number of years in this House and serving on the Standing Committee on Indian Affairs and Northern Development, I have watched the activities of various ministers of Indian Affairs and noted the accomplishments which each of them have attained over the years. I have served on the standing committee for some eight years now. As I have observed the statistics and watched the performance of the department over the years, I find that instead of the plight of the native people of this country improving, it is getting worse. Various ministers have tried to deal with the problems of the department in various ways.

I have waited for almost one year before moving this motion, because it would have been unfair to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (Mr. Munro) to have moved it earlier, since he had just taken over the portfolio, to see if the minister would in some way change the policies which past ministers of the Liberal government followed, bring forward some new ways to deal with the plight of the native people, and move them closer to self-reliance. There have been no such policies in this past year. The minister has followed the same policies which have been followed for years. This is why I felt it was necessary to move this motion at this time.

I and my colleagues have lost confidence in the ability of the Liberal government and of the minister in that portfolio to deal effectively with the Indian problems in this country. I would like to illustrate that by putting forth some statistics compiled by the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. In 1964, approximately 36 per cent of the Indian population was supported by social assistance, compared to 3.5 per cent of the national population. In 1974, 55 per cent of the total Indian population on reserves was receiving social assistance or welfare payments. In Ontario it was an estimated 70 per cent. By comparison, only 6 per cent of the national population received welfare or social assistance. In the fiscal year 1978-79 the portion of the native population receiving welfare rose to 70 per cent.

At the same time the government has spent \$359 million over five years on economic development. It is spending \$250 million a year on education. The department has a budget of over \$700 million per year to deal with this problem, but it is falling further and further behind in its attempts.

Out of a deep sense of conviction, I and my colleagues feel that it is time the government developed the kinds of policies which will stop these increasing statistics. I will add to these statistics with regard to health and welfare later in my speech. I know that some of my colleagues who will be speaking later in the debate will be dealing with such topics as economic development, housing, and unemployment, and that they will be putting on the record statistics which will show that the government is falling behind in those areas as well. I do not have the time to deal with all those areas in my speech. I merely hope to give an overview of why I believe the House should support this motion.