

Oral Questions

this philosophy, since in British Columbia average family incomes went down from \$30,000 to \$26,000 over five years and family poverty increased by 85 per cent under this kind of philosophy? Does he advocate private sector jobs at \$3.65 per hour minimum wages as a means of alleviating poverty?

Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I point out to the Hon. Member that Statistics Canada has recently released some figures indicating that, for the first time since 1980, there was a decline in the number of Canadians living in households with incomes below the low income threshold, and that the number of Canadians living in low income households fell by 298,000. It is still too high, but it is good progress. It is the first time since 1980 that it was reversed.

Ms. Mitchell: Those statistics must have been taken from Toronto, because in British Columbia Statistics Canada indicates that incomes went down from \$30,000 to \$26,000 over—

Mr. Speaker: Order. I would ask the Hon. Member to put her question.

REQUEST FOR COMMUNITY JOB-CREATION PROGRAMS

Ms. Margaret Mitchell (Vancouver East): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is directed to the Minister of Employment and Immigration. As an anti-poverty measure, will the Minister introduce aggressive community job-creation programs in low income communities—child care, women's programs, and programs for our youth and the elderly—to extend services and help promote self-help?

[*Translation*]

Hon. Benoît Bouchard (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, our jobs strategy includes a whole series of initiatives, including one which will become increasingly important in coming weeks, namely the community development program. We shall be announcing in the near future a number of communities which will benefit under this program, especially in British Columbia, but also in other provinces. This will enable us to act directly with these communities to alleviate the unemployment problem in these regions.

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[*English*]

INDIAN AFFAIRS

LUBICON LAKE INDIAN BAND—LAND CLAIM

Mr. Keith Penner (Cochrane—Superior): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Deputy Prime Minister who is also a distinguished Member from Alberta. As the Minister knows, ever since last February the Minister of Indian Affairs has had in his hands the report of the Hon. E. Davie Fulton on the

aboriginal claim of the Lubicon Lake Indian people. Could the Minister explain to the House why the Government is offering the Lubicon people less than one half the quantity of land which the Hon. E. Davie Fulton said was a reasonable basis for a just settlement for these people in northern Alberta?

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, I am sure the Hon. Member knows that this is a very complex issue. The Minister is seized with the issue at the present time. I should simply like to inform him that he will probably be in the House tomorrow. I ask him to defer his question until the Minister is here in that he is much more fully briefed on the matter than I am.

FULTON COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS

Mr. Keith Penner (Cochrane—Superior): Mr. Speaker, I agree with the Deputy Prime Minister that it is a complex question, but he knows that this is becoming a matter of considerable international embarrassment to Canada. Will he assure the House that the Government will move quickly to make a fair and just settlement with the Lubicon people and that the recommendations of no less a person than the Hon. E. Davie Fulton will be taken into full and complete consideration?

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, without totally accepting the premise of the question, I would simply say to the Hon. Member that I will take that as a representation, inform the Hon. Minister, and hope that he will respond fully, to the satisfaction of the Hon. Member, when he returns to the House.

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● (1450)

[*Translation*]

CANADA POST CORPORATION

REQUEST FOR HOME MAIL DELIVERY AT LAUNAY IN ABITIBI

Mr. Guy St. Julien (Abitibi): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister responsible for Canada Post.

Since September 30, 1986, the customers of the Launay rural route in Abitibi must collect their mail at the Launay-Station post office, several miles from their home. The Canada Post Corporation has said that this decision is due to its will to provide profitable postal services.

Mr. Speaker, my question is this: Has the Canada Post Corporation considered the hardships such a decision will cause to the senior citizens and the handicapped of this outlying region as they will have to travel several miles during the long Abitibi winter?