

sector because it has created 80 per cent of all jobs, not only in Nepean—Carleton, but nationally.

The local community was also estatic during the weekend because Carleton University, Ottawa University, and 13 high technology companies, together with the Ottawa-Carleton Research Institute, were selected to establish a world-class telecommunications centre.

This decision will bring industry and universities closer together to conduct leading-edge research and to provide job opportunities for young scientists and engineers. It also reinforces Ottawa-Carleton's position as the high technology centre for Canada. Most important, it is part of a pathway to the future for all Canadians.

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ABORIGINAL RIGHTS

BRITISH COLUMBIA INDIAN BANDS—FUNDING SOUGHT TO FIGHT COURT CASE

Mr. Keith Penner (Cochrane—Superior): Mr. Speaker, the Alliance of Tribal Councils representing 36 Indian bands in British Columbia has been patiently waiting for almost a year for the Government of Canada to fulfil its promise to provide funding for its court case with CN Rail.

The Indian bands represented by the Alliance have been forced into court because the federal Government has failed to protect their rights, because the Province of British Columbia does not acknowledge their rights, and because Canadian National refuses to negotiate in good faith.

● (1405)

Both the Province of B.C. and the federal Government are defendants in this case. Both Governments and CN have the resources they require for the legal action. To deny the Alliance the funding it needs to protect its rights and to participate on an equal footing with all the other parties would be a travesty of justice. At issue are aboriginal rights to fish and rights to cultural and economic survival.

Therefore I urge the Government to meet its obligations and to keep its promise—approve this funding before the summer recess of the House.

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SOCIAL SECURITY

PROPORTION OF WORKERS SUPPORTING SYSTEM

Mr. Alan Redway (York East): Mr. Speaker, when the coming senior citizen population explosion first dawned on us,

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Canadians suddenly realized that soon there would be a decreasing number of workers to help pay for our social security system, particularly pensions.

Today there are six people between the ages of 18 and 64 for every person 65 years of age and over. Before too long, however, there will be only two people of working age for each senior citizen. All of this could change in the next few years if our productivity substantially increases, or if more seniors continue to work, or if our birth rate goes up, or if we increase immigration. One thing is clear—if we try to maintain our current six-to-one portion of working-age Canadians to seniors we will have to increase our population to 54 million people, more than doubling it over the next 40 years.

Our present immigration level of 125,000 people per year will maintain and stabilize our present 25 million population, but it will not produce the number of workers we will need to pay for our social security system. The time to start planning is now.

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NATIONAL PARKS

SOUTH MORESBY—REQUEST PRIME MINISTER COMMUNICATE WITH BRITISH COLUMBIA PREMIER

Mr. Jim Fulton (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, on May 14 the House unanimously passed a motion calling for the co-operation of the B.C. Government in setting aside South Moresby as a national park reserve. Two weeks ago Ottawa offered \$106 million. A week ago British Columbia turned that down. Last Wednesday the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) promised to use every lever to persuade B.C. He has not used one yet.

The B.C. Cabinet meets on Wednesday to decide the fate of the area. Canadians from coast to coast have risen to the moment and in unprecedented numbers are calling, writing, and sending telegrams to Victoria and Ottawa. At \$106 million Ottawa is offering to pay more for South Moresby than it cost for all 32 national parks in Canada.

The B.C. Premier says it's just a bunch of easterners who want South Moresby preserved. Well, I just returned from B.C. last night and support for South Moresby is everywhere. British Columbia's 28 MPs are unanimous in our support and do not take kindly to being called easterners by the man from Fantasy Gardens.

I trust that the Prime Minister will use the right lever on this issue and remember that he is Canada's Prime Minister in British Columbia and should not hesitate to go to British Columbia between now and Wednesday to find a fair and just settlement for all Canadians and all British Columbians.