

Adjournment Debate

Turning to the Hon. Member's objective of generating thousands of jobs through oil sands development, the primary purpose of oil exploration and development is to open up the country's oil resource potential for present and future generations. The extent to which this primary objective generates jobs is a very welcome consequence and, in this connection, Canada Lands exploration is producing jobs in areas where they are badly needed, particularly in the Atlantic provinces.

The argument is sometimes made that we should put all of our effort into the oil sands because the oil is there and the technology is known. The fact is that oil sands development is not without its risks and, in the matter of technology, reference could be made to a recently published statement by C. W. Bowman, head of the Alberta Oil Sands Technology and Research Authority, who said: "—in spite of progress to date, further quantum jumps in technology will be required before the full impact of the oil sands is realized".

The policy of this Government is to proceed on all fronts in working toward the objective of oil self-sufficiency. The results off the Newfoundland and Nova Scotia coasts have demonstrated the value of this approach.

At the same time, federal policy is very actively directed to oil sands and heavy oil development. The federal Government operates major incentives for the opening up of these resources including the provision of earned depletion allowance, relief from the Petroleum and Gas Revenue Tax, the world oil price, and special provisions to encourage heavy oil processing and marketing. The fact that the Cold Lake, Wolf Lake, and Elk Point oil sands projects are underway is evidence of the effectiveness of these measures, and of the royalty reduction provisions of the provinces. Other similar projects will not be long in coming.

In these brief comments, Mr. Speaker, I have emphasized the importance of an integrated program of oil resource development. Results show that it is paying off in terms of new resources while at the same time generating economic benefits for regions most in need.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Guilbault): Order, please. I regret to interrupt the hon. gentleman but his time is up.

EMPLOYMENT—APPROVAL OF FUNDS FOR PROJECTS ON INDIAN RESERVES—FORMULA FOR ALLOCATING GRANTS

Mr. Doug Anguish (The Battlefords-Meadow Lake): Mr. Speaker, I rise in this Adjournment Debate regarding a question I put to the Minister of Employment and Immigration (Mr. Roberts) on February 15 as reported at page 1412 of *Hansard*. I inquired about the current status of projects under the Canada Works Program that had been recommended by the Saskatchewan region. I had concurred in them as I had some informal consultation about the applications.

• (1810)

Since the recommendations, some five and a half months have now passed. When I asked the question, there was no word as to whether or not the Minister would give the final approval for these projects to go ahead. It was beginning to look as though we would be into the summer employment

programs soon, yet the winter works project under Canada Works had not been approved and put in place.

In my constituency of The Battlefords-Meadow Lake, there were some 11 projects of which I was aware that had been recommended at the regional level. These included Project No. 1395 of the Saulteaux Band, Project No. 1390 of the Pelican Lake Band, Project No. 1348 of the Island Lake Band, Project No. 1403 of the Joseph Bighead Band, Project No. 1409 of the Thunderchild Band, Project No. 1344 of the Moosomin Band, Project No. 1417 of the Sahgaiehan Band at Loon Lake, Saskatchewan, Project No. 1337 of the Onion Lake Band and Project No. 1375 of the Native Youth Service from the North Battleford Indian Health Centre, as well as another project which was later approved from the Witchehan Lake Band. This makes a total of some 11 projects.

In his response on February 15, the Minister said that I had not raised this matter before. The point is that I raised it informally on many occasions with the Employment and Development Branch, as well as with other employees of the Canada Employment and Immigration Department. Finally, out of frustration and after hearing so many times that the grants were caught up in an argument between the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (Mr. Munro) and the Minister of Employment and Immigration, I asked the question in the House to try to move them to some response.

I understand from talking to the Department of Employment and Immigration in Regina that they finally received notice today that those projects have been approved. Of the 11 projects, I would like to know from the Parliamentary Secretary which were actually approved and what amounts were actually approved for those projects.

Another problem I would like to point out to the Parliamentary Secretary at this time is that the programs have changed over the years. In 1980, the first year I was elected as a Member of Parliament, the forerunner to the program we are talking about now was called Canada Community Development Project I; the second year, it was called Canada Community Development Project II; and the third year it was called Canada Community Development Project III. The name has now been changed to Canada Works.

The problem is not only with the change in the name of the program, but is with the change in the steps that the funds must go through. The first year under Canada Community Development Project I the projects were allocated by constituency for the general stream, for Treaty Indian people and for Non-Treaty Native People. This all went into a constituency allocation. At that time, the funds were recommended for Minister's approval through participation of employees of the Employment and Development Branch of Canada Employment and the Immigration Commission. They were also recommended for the approval of the Minister by a local advisory board that was appointed locally and consisted of nine people at that time. As well, funds were recommended for approval by the Member of Parliament.