

*Oral Questions***EMPLOYMENT****SPECIAL EMPLOYMENT INITIATIVES PROGRAM—DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS TO NEW BRUNSWICK RIDINGS**

Mr. Bob Corbett (Fundy-Royal): Mr. Speaker, I remind the Minister that we asked for the details under the SEI Program back in 1982. We were told to await the details, to put our questions on the Order Paper. We did that, and we got nothing.

How can the Minister explain away to the suffering families of the unemployed the ineffective dumping of more than \$7 million under the SEI Program into New Brunswick Liberal ridings for the sole purpose of electing the unelectable? How does he expect Canadians to believe that over 90 per cent of the unemployed reside only in Grit ridings in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia?

Hon. John Roberts (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, there seems to be an extraordinary inconsistency in the hon. gentleman's question. On the one hand he preaches at us for having done nothing in New Brunswick. In fact what we have done is put \$89 million worth of job-creation investment into New Brunswick in exactly the kinds of programs which he then turns around and condemns us for having brought into effect.

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OFFICIAL LANGUAGES**COSTS OF LITIGANTS CONTESTING LEGALITY OF QUEBEC LEGISLATION**

Hon. Warren Allmand (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce-Lachine East): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Justice. Yesterday federal Government lawyers were in the Supreme Court with Quebec school groups to contest the restrictive education provisions in Quebec's Bill 101. Furthermore, his colleague, the Secretary of State, provided funding to cover the legal costs of the litigants.

This week four Montreal businesses and Alliance Quebec joined together to contest legally the restrictive sign provisions in Bill 101. Will the Minister say whether his Department and the Secretary of State will provide the same assistance to these litigants in order to strike down these oppressive provisions?

Hon. Mark MacGuigan (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, as the Hon. Member's question recognizes, the Government has been very active in supporting the claims of minority groups of both official languages in many parts of the country in cases involving the rights of minority linguistic groups. The program is administered by the Secretary of State, on the advice of the Minister of Justice. We have a considerable number of applications. We try our best to consider them favourably. The kind of application to which my hon. friend referred is the kind that would likely receive support from our program. I would actually have to receive the application and discuss it with my colleague before I could give an absolute

assurance, but certainly prima facie it would seem to be the kind of case where assistance would be given.

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ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS**ACID RAIN—PROTEST TO UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT**

Mr. Stan Darling (Parry Sound-Muskoka): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of the Environment. He is aware of the recent protest sent to the Government of the United States. Could he give us an idea why it took so long, inasmuch as the U.S. President made his statement approximately six weeks ago? Would the Minister tell us what the Government intends to do on its own to reduce emissions by 50 per cent? That is what we will have to do to set a good example.

● (1450)

Hon. Chas. L. Caccia (Minister of the Environment): Mr. Speaker, this being a decision that resulted in a serious setback in our plans to reduce acid rain precipitation in this country, we wanted to make a very thorough analysis and put our case forward to the United States in the most concise and effective manner. Therefore, we have proceeded in a rational and orderly way. We presented this statement yesterday to make our case. I do not think the Hon. Member would have approved if we had rushed into the State Department with an ill-conceived position. We have done it in a way that I believe is rational and will hopefully convince the American authorities that they are making a very serious mistake in disregarding the economic consequences to their economy as well as the Canadian economy in postponing action on acid precipitation.

As to the second part of the Hon. Member's question, I am approaching the provincial Ministers of the Environment in order to convene a federal-provincial meeting very soon to assess our position, and to determine where we go from here.

AUTOMOBILE EMISSION STANDARDS

Mr. Stan Darling (Parry Sound-Muskoka): Mr. Speaker, the Minister is aware automobile emission regulations in Canada are much more lenient, in fact three times more lenient as in the United States. I believe that something will be done in Canada to make ours stricter, but not until the 1990 models. I am wondering if the Minister would have a word with his seatmate, the Minister of Transport, and maybe between the two of them they will do something to change the 1990 date to at least 1987. Surely we do not have to wait that long, since cars manufactured in Canada are shipped to the United States equipped with strict emission controls. It could probably be done here by 1986.

Hon. Chas. L. Caccia (Minister of the Environment): Mr. Speaker, I thank the Hon. Member for his intervention on this subject. I have frequent conversations on this with my seat-