

*Oral Questions***INDIAN AFFAIRS**

## TRANSFER PAYMENT TO QUEBEC CREE

**Mr. Keith Penner (Cochrane-Superior):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the President of the Treasury Board. Could the Minister explain to the House and to the Cree people of Quebec why he unilaterally reduced an Indian self-government transfer payment by 50 per cent, a payment that flowed out of an agreement signed between the Cree people and Canada, an agreement that was part of the Cree-Naskapi Act and signed in conjunction with that Act passed by this Parliament?

**Hon. David Crombie (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development):** Mr. Speaker, perhaps I can assist the Hon. Member. I think one fact would be useful to note: there was an increase in the original payment of over \$800,000, which is only half the request. The Treasury Board note also indicates that the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development will be approaching the Treasury Board with respect to further opportunities.

## AGREEMENTS WITH ABORIGINAL PEOPLES

**Mr. Keith Penner (Cochrane-Superior):** Mr. Speaker, I wish the Minister well in his representations. I want to ask him when we are going to stop breaking agreements that we sign with the aboriginal peoples of Canada.

**Hon. David Crombie (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development):** Mr. Speaker, I say this with all the compassion I can muster. It would have been most useful if the previous Government had made opportunities available to the northern Cree which would have allowed us to proceed with the agreement. In fact, what we have had to do is pick up where the agreement left off, provide the funds that are available to us now, and come back later. I can assure the Hon. Member that this Government intends to maintain agreements, and indeed make agreements which are maintainable.

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**YOUTH**

## ANNOUNCEMENT OF GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS

**Mr. Howard McCurdy (Windsor-Walkerville):** Mr. Speaker, a lot of urgency has been attached to the fact that one man is on a hunger strike, but not enough to the fact that 700,000 young people are in serious difficulty. My question is directed to the Secretary of State. Can we get a straight answer? Is it that we are going to have a program by the Easter recess, by the end of March as the Prime Minister says, or mañana like the Secretary of State said?

**Hon. Benoît Bouchard (Secretary of State):** I can repeat in the other official language repeat what I said in French. I said that when we will be ready to propose to young Canadians any

other policy we will do so, but not necessarily at the time when you want. The Prime Minister never said that we will propose a policy before such and such a date. We will propose something when we are ready.

**Mr. McCurdy:** Speaker, is it not amazing that the Prime Minister was so prompt in retrospect about the dismissal of a Minister, but there is so much delay in dealing with the problems of young people? Can we not trust the Prime Minister?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Order, please. This is the same question again. The Hon. Member for Cape Breton-The Sydneys.

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**ENERGY**

## WORLD OIL PRICES

**Mr. Russell MacLellan (Cape Breton-The Sydneys):** My question is directed to the Deputy Prime Minister. Today the OPEC meetings broke off without reaching an agreement on how to stop the decline in world oil prices. Is the Government still prepared to play the waiting game while even more jobs are lost in our energy industry?

**Mr. John McDermid (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Mr. Speaker, we are in constant contact with the producing provinces, we are in constant contact with the producers themselves in discussing this particular issue. When a decision is made as to what action, if any, the provincial and federal Governments will take, that announcement will be made jointly in complete co-operation, like we have seen over the last 18 months, with our provincial counterparts.

## REQUEST THAT GOVERNMENT TAKE ACTION

**Mr. Russell MacLellan (Cape Breton-The Sydneys):** My supplementary question is directed to the Deputy Prime Minister. A large number of Canadian companies have laid off employees and the Independent Petroleum Association of Canada has said the time for waiting is over. Will the Government admit that the time for waiting is over and take some action now?

**Mr. John McDermid (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Well, the Hon. Member has been standing up asking for action, but he fails to mention what kind of action should be taken by the Government. If he has some ideas we would be more than happy to listen to him, but to stand up there and just say take action is completely irresponsible.