

*Adjournment Debate*

which the group might have suffered by being mainly female. I believe that the priority which this government has asked that the case be given has been respected.

In closing, I want to reiterate the government's commitment to equal pay for work of equal value and to assure you that it will be achieved. While at times the achievement of service-wide pay equity between male dominated and female dominated groups may appear slow, we are ensuring that our approach is sound, that all parties are given a chance to participate and that our collective bargaining structure is respected. In an organization as large and as diversified as the federal Public Service, this can be complex but it is possible.

## INDIAN AFFAIRS

**Mr. Ross Harvey (Edmonton East):** Madam Speaker, on December 1, all Petro-Canada wells on traditional Lubicon lands in northwest Alberta were stilled. They have remained dormant since. Petro-Canada and its partner, Norcen Energy Resources, voluntarily undertook to comply with the request of the Lubicon people that they halt their activities on Lubicon land as of December 1. The Lubicon people made this request which in the face of non-compliance would have become an order on December 1, as a means of bringing pressure to bear on the federal government. It is one more tactic adopted by the band in their decades old attempt to force the federal government to negotiate a fair settlement to their outstanding claims. Two days before the shut-down took effect, that is on November 29, I asked the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development the following question:

—will the government direct its officials to make clear, and announce, the government's willingness now to resume negotiations with the Lubicon on all aspects of their claim, including a compensation package?

• (1910)

The minister, in his response, neatly side-stepped the question of negotiation of compensation, saying instead:

—ever since we made this offer last January, we have been prepared to go back to the table to discuss the fair and comprehensive offer that was made to the Lubicons.

What he did not say was that the offer made last January specifically ruled out any negotiation of compensation for the Lubicon people. That offer included a series of disparate suggestions for various forms of

assistance for which the band might apply, for guarantees of some funding into which the federal government might enter, for promises that some current federal initiatives might be reviewed in the hope that they could be made more generous in the band's interests, and for the establishment of certain trust moneys in an endowment fund for the band.

It clearly and categorically ruled out any negotiated compensation for the years of forgone federal treaty payments lost by the band because it was missed by the federal government's Treaty Eight negotiators, and for the billions of dollars in mineral wealth sucked out of the ground beneath the Lubicon's feet while they have spent the last 50 years trying patiently and reasonably to reach some fair conclusion to their claims.

Let us make no mistake, we are talking about a great deal of money here. Total forgone treaty benefits have been calculated, in a fashion approved of by the federal government's own investigator, Mr. E. David Fulton, at up to \$170 million. In an affidavit filed on behalf of the Alberta government on June 30, 1983, it was estimated that: "The negative monetary impact to Alberta", and I interpolate here, of an injunction against oil and gas exploration in the 4,000 square miles of traditional Lubicon lands, "could amount to roughly \$450 to \$500 million annually". Another calculation has set the value of oil and gas production from traditional Lubicon lands over the last 10 years at about \$5 billion.

It is useful, it is reasonable, to keep such figures in mind while we consider that the entire compensation package sought by the Lubicon people is simply that which they have been denied in consequence of sloppy work by the government's original Treaty Eight negotiators; \$170 million, about a third of one year's production according to the 1983 Alberta Government affidavit. But the government has made a very generous offer of \$45 million, some will protest. They will say, obviously in rejecting this generous offer and demanding an unconscionable \$170 million, that the Lubicon people are just being greedy and vexatious. Are they?

Perhaps we can judge the matter better by comparing the Lubicon's position to the settlements actually achieved in consequence of recent negotiations. Let us consider just two, both of which are outstanding treaty land entitlement settlements, additions to existing treaty