

*Oral Questions*

Northeast Coal, he didn't talk about Expo '86, he didn't talk about a number of other projects in which the Government of Canada has invested hundreds of millions of dollars into the economy of British Columbia in the last couple of years. That is why I disagree with the premise of the Hon. Member's question.

With respect to the tier designations, once a year right across the country, on a statistical basis with Statistics Canada people, we do an evaluation which takes account of disposable income, unemployment, and the fiscal capacity of the respective province to make sure that we have a comprehensive, equitable, and fair index across the country. There is no political input into that process whatsoever. Consequently, we will be doing that for this year.

If the figures that the Hon. Member indicates are correct, obviously there will be some changes. I think we have already redesignated four or five census divisions in British Columbia from Tier I to special Tier I as a result of the higher unemployment figures in the last year and a half alone.

● (1200)

## NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE BENEFIT RECIPIENTS

**Hon. Allan B. McKinnon (Victoria):** Mr. Speaker, the Minister has defined the way in which the Government will determine whether a region will have Tier I or Tier II, or a special Tier I. It is the ratio between unemployment insurance beneficiaries and the working age population. Does the Minister not realize the reason we do not have more unemployment insurance beneficiaries is that they have exhausted their time available to draw UIC and now cannot draw it any more? Consequently we will never be able to reach the level he demands. The simple fact is we have a higher rate of unemployment than ever before. It is now higher than two of the four Atlantic provinces. I would like to thank this Government a lot for that. How desperate does our unemployment need to be before we will be treated fairly?

**Hon. Ed Lumley (Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion):** Mr. Speaker, the IRDP program was passed unanimously in this House. It was agreed by members of all three Parties that for the first time we had an equitable index which compared the most vital economic statistics in the smallest census regions in the country. The formula that was applied is as equal for the Hon. Member's constituency as it is for every other single constituency in the country. I cannot think of any index, at least I do not know of one that has ever been developed by any Government or by the private sector, that is more equitable or more fair than this particular index.

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## LABOUR CONDITIONS

## YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT

**Mr. Dan Heap (Spadina):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Acting Prime Minister. In view of the 34,000 increase in

unemployed young people since last month, a man of his generation and mine must know that condemning the unemployed for being unemployed is the biggest lie since Hitler blamed the Jews for the Depression. My question, on behalf of the youth in my riding, and throughout Canada, to the Minister is: will he stop his lying, stop deliberately misleading the Canadian people—

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The Hon. Member, I am sure, is aware that it is unparliamentary to accuse a Member of this House of lying. I ask the Hon. Member for Spadina to withdraw the expression he used.

**Mr. Heap:** Mr. Speaker, I am sure the Minister is well aware of the effect of what he said and well aware that what he said was false. I will only withdraw the accusation if he withdraws the remark he made yesterday.

**Mr. Speaker:** It is a basic principle of the House that a withdrawal cannot be with qualifications when a reference is made to another Hon. Member lying. This has been established in the case of a senior Member of this House not very long ago, the Right Hon. Prime Minister. I will have to ask the same consideration of the Hon. Member for Spadina.

**Mr. Heap:** Mr. Speaker, I regret that I am convinced the Minister knew that what he was saying was false when he said it.

**Some Hon. Members:** Out!

**Mr. Heap:** I will not under those circumstances withdraw it, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Pepin:** To tell you the truth, Mr. Speaker, I do not care one bit.

**Miss MacDonald:** You don't care about young people?

**Mr. Speaker:** The Minister for External Relations made an intervention which the Chair did not hear. Does he care to repeat it?

**Mr. Pepin:** Mr. Speaker, I said that I was not preoccupied by the insult thrown at me by the Hon. Member. I have learned to judge the quality of an insult by the quality of the person who makes it.

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Speaker:** I invite the Hon. Member for Spadina to withdraw the word he used, which is clearly unparliamentary.

**Mr. Heap:** I believe thoroughly that what I said was true and that what the Minister said was false, Mr. Speaker, and I will not withdraw those words.

**Mr. Cousineau:** Throw him out.