

● (1127)

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. John C. Munro (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, inasmuch as the Leader of the New Democratic Party is requesting that I relay his request to the Prime Minister, certainly I will do that.

Mr. Broadbent: Will you support it?

Mr. Munro (Hamilton East): He is asking another question now as to whether or not I will support it. As far as stockpiling is concerned, I can indicate only that I do not believe that that is any fundamental answer to the question at all. There is indication that there has been months of stockpiling already. Increased expenditures or incentives to further increase those stockpiles seem to be putting off the day when we can get this industry back into a healthy condition to guarantee jobs for the people who are unemployed.

Mr. Broadbent: Mr. Speaker, the minister should know that we stockpiled uranium for seven years and not for seven months, and as the minister is aware, considerable profits were reaped after that period. I do not know why it cannot be done for nickel.

* * *

RESOURCES

ALLEGED REPORT ON FOREIGN EXPANSION BY INCO—REASON FOR FAILURE TO ACT

Mr. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa-Whitby): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. In January, 1976 he had a report which was submitted to him indicating that future development in nickel by INCO was going to be taking place in Guatemala and Indonesia at the expense of Canada. I should like to ask him why he did not make some report to the cabinet outlining the correct steps which should be taken to ensure that these jobs remained in Canada?

Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, the NDP seem to find it convenient to suggest the building of a nice, tight little fence around Canada and that we can forget about the rest of the world. They seem to feel that we do not have to concern ourselves with the ambitions of other countries to develop their resources.

Mr. Broadbent: Answer the question.

Mr. Gillespie: They seem to feel that somehow or other we can insulate ourselves as a major mining and exporting country from the rest of the world, and I think that is absurd.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Broadbent: Mr. Speaker, the minister should know the absurd because he specializes in it. With reference to this red

Oral Questions

herring, members on both sides have generally supported assistance for Third World countries. I ask the minister seriously and not rhetorically, does it make sense for the government of Canada to be taking taxpayers' money to encourage the development in other countries of specific industries which will compete with Canadian industries? Given the problems of the textile industry in the province of Quebec, would he favour giving millions of dollars to Taiwan, Hong Kong or South Korea to encourage more sophisticated production of textiles in those countries, which would drive thousands of workers out of work in Canada in the textile industry?

Mr. Gillespie: Mr. Speaker, I put it to the hon. Leader of the New Democratic Party: if one of the South American countries decided that it was going to develop its nickel deposits with the assistance of the World Bank and other international agencies and was looking for engineering assistance, hardware and mining equipment, would the hon. member suggest that Canada should stand back and say: "No, we are not going to provide that kind of assistance"?

Some hon. Members: Order.

* * *

[Translation]

SOCIAL SECURITY

POSSIBILITY OF GRANTING GUARANTEED ANNUAL INCOME—REQUEST FOR REPORT ON NEGOTIATIONS WITH QUEBEC

Mr. Adrien Lambert (Bellechasse): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare to whom I wish, first of all, to extend my congratulations and very best wishes of success in her new duties.

As the setting up, in Canada, of a guaranteed annual income has been the topic of many studies in the last few years and negotiations with the provinces, can the minister tell the House whether she intends to introduce in Parliament during this session a bill providing for the adoption of such a plan, so that we can hope that this new formula will encourage people to work and so help considerably in solving the unemployment problem?

Hon. Monique Bégin (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, first, I wish to thank my colleague from the opposition for his good wishes, and tell him that I hope his wishes for success in my work will come true. As for a guaranteed annual income, may I say again what I have already had the opportunity of explaining through the mass media, namely that I shall do everything in my power to take a step in that direction, a big step, I hope; it will, of course, require passing legislation which will reflect the promise of the government to have some form or other of guaranteed annual income. I hope this can be done as soon as possible.

Mr. Lambert (Bellechasse): I want to ask a supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Would the Minister of National Health and Welfare be in a position to inform the House in a more specific