

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Friday, April 11, 1986

The House met at 11 a.m.

STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S.O. 21

[English]

INDIAN AFFAIRS

FUNDS FOR NORTHERN ONTARIO BANDS

Mr. Keith Penner (Cochrane—Superior): Mr. Speaker, this week several chiefs representing six newly recognized Indian bands of the Nishnawbe-Aski Nation in northern Ontario were here in Ottawa seeking assurances that their capital funding program would be approved. They have the support of Members of Parliament in all political Parties and from the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (Mr. Crombie) himself. Nevertheless they are apprehensive because, living in a time of Government restraint, they are aware that obstacles may arise which would prevent them from proceeding with the upgrading and improvement of their remote communities, putting in place basic services that other Canadians take for granted.

These dignified chiefs are not here for a hand-out. Their Governments are now recognized, and they are here to assert their constitutional and aboriginal rights. I say to the Government that, even in times of restraint, the constitutional and historical obligations to our aboriginal peoples must be honoured.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

CANADA-UNITED STATES AGREEMENT ON VANCOUVER ISLAND MARITIME TEST RANGE

Mr. Jim Manly (Cowichan—Malahat—The Islands): Mr. Speaker, despite letters and telegrams to the office of the Prime Minister dating from last December, he has not responded to requests from the Nanoose Conversion Campaign about the renewal of the Canada-U.S. agreement on the Maritime Experimental and Test Range located at Nanoose, Vancouver Island. The Conversion Campaign Committee wants to know what changes and extensions the Americans are requesting in the present agreement which expires next Monday, April 14. From coast to coast thousands of Canadians have petitioned the Government to hold an open inquiry on the matter, yet it has chosen to proceed with renewal, with no public input whatsoever.

In spite of repeated requests for information regarding the advantages and disadvantages to Canada of the test range, the Canadian people have been given no information whatsoever on the changes the Americans are seeking to make.

I call upon the Government to make a full statement of intentions before signing—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Sixty seconds.

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ENERGY

GASOLINE PRICES IN NORTHERN AREAS

Mr. Dave Nickerson (Western Arctic): Mr. Speaker, in most of the major centres of the NWT the pump price of gasoline remains in the 60-cent to 70-cent per litre range, with prices which can be much higher in remote communities. There has been some amelioration in the southern areas where there is a degree of competition but, for example, in the lower Mackenzie where Esso has a virtual monopoly, prices have remained static at just less than 70 cents per litre.

Northern consumers are aware of the high taxes imposed by the Territorial Government and the high transportation and storage costs, but they still feel that crude price reductions are not being fully passed on. Northerners ought to receive the same benefits from lower crude oil prices as do southerners.

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[Translation]

EMPLOYMENT

WOMEN—GOVERNMENT'S PERFORMANCE

Mrs. Lise Bourgault (Argenteuil—Papineau): Mr. Speaker, this Government has repeatedly shown that it is committed to create equality for women in Canadian society. Action has been substituted for rhetoric.

Employment has to be the sector where the results of equal opportunity measures taken by the Government are most telling.

Statistics Canada figures released on Friday reveal that female unemployment has declined sharply. Here is supporting evidence, Mr. Speaker: there are now 293,000 more women in the labour force than there were in September 1984; unem-