

Supply

being made to supply him with the answer to the other question.

Madam Deputy Speaker: Shall the remaining questions stand?

Some hon. members: Agreed.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

SUPPLY

ALLOTTED DAY, S. O. 81—REQUEST FOR GENERAL ELECTION

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Boudria (p. 13691).

Madam Deputy Speaker: There were three minutes left in the question and comment period following the intervention by the member for Calgary Southwest.

Mrs. Ethel Blondin-Andrew (Western Arctic): Madam Speaker, I thank you for the opportunity to ask a question of my hon. colleague on the other side of the House.

This motion states specifically that it is a debate on confidence in the government and the government's inability to provide leadership and direction on the economic and social affairs of the nation.

As I have stated publicly before, I am really at a loss and severely frustrated with the whole issue of the giant mine strike in Yellowknife.

Clearly there has not been the kind of direction and the kind of leadership required to resolve the issue. It has had a devastating impact on all citizens. It has been a no-win situation for the Northwest Territories. For the citizens of Yellowknife it has essentially ripped the community apart. We are in a situation that is on the verge of another perhaps devastating event that could occur. Every day the tensions escalate in that community. What is occurring is that the RCMP is putting out press releases with every incident that occurs in relation to this strike.

It is unresolved at this point. It is quite clear, as my hon. colleague will know, that the government has sole

jurisdiction in this particular area, sole responsibility, because there is no NWT labour legislation.

I would like to ask my hon. colleague why the impact of this strike has had such a devastating impact on the economy. Talk to anyone on the streets of Yellowknife; the cab drivers, the people in the cafes, the people in government offices will tell you that it has had not only a morally devastating impact socially but a devastating economic impact.

I would like to ask the hon. member why the Minister of Labour has taken a holiday on this issue. Why is it that the mediation has not been aggressive enough to have come to some resolution on this particular issue? Where is the leadership? Where is the confidence that we need at this time in the community of Yellowknife?

Mrs. Barbara Sparrow (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of National Health and Welfare): Madam Speaker, to my colleague, the member for Western Arctic, I would like to extend not only my sympathies but the sympathies of all members with us today to those people in the city of Yellowknife and specifically to those families that lost their loved ones. This strike was devastating as were the events that followed afterwards.

It has ripped the community apart, and I will acknowledge that.

The Minister of Labour did travel to Edmonton some months ago and drew both parties together with regard to a mediator to try and resolve the very difficult situation up in Yellowknife. I can assure my colleague that he has not taken a holiday. There are procedures that we go through and obviously sometimes it is very difficult to get striking parties to come to an agreement.

I certainly once again extend my sincere sympathies, but must also say to her that this is in the forefront of the Minister of Labour's concerns and hopefully there will be some resolution in a short period of time.

Mr. Robert E. Skelly (Comox-Alberni): Madam Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity given to me to take part in the debate on my colleague's motion. I note that it is very similar to a motion that was presented to the House by the Tories way back prior to the dissolution of Parliament in 1984 when they were attempting to get the Liberals to call an election and to move out of the way. At that time the Liberals were a very unpopular government.