

S. O. 21

Often missed in the discussion are the opportunities which it will bring to residents on the Sunshine Coast, and particularly to the wonderful community of Squamish on the Howe Sound.

Now the people of Squamish will be able to look forward to a cheaper source for domestic heating, but even more important, to the possibility of attracting new industry to their community.

With an economy based on forestry, Squamish is well situated on tide water. Now, with the possibility of natural gas—a clean and efficient fuel—it is a logical location for development of new industries to add value to the forest resources and to diversify the economy.

The Vancouver Island gas pipeline is not only good news for Vancouver Island, it is very good news for Squamish.

* * *

FOOD

SUSPENSION OF FINANCING FOR THIRD WORLD FOOD
IRRADIATION PROJECTS

Mr. Jim Manly (Cowichan—Malahat—The Islands): Mr. Speaker, funding of food irradiation projects in developing countries has been put on hold by the International Finance Corporation, an affiliate of the World Bank. The corporation claims that it would be inappropriate to finance food irradiation projects in developing countries until the technology gains wider consumer acceptance and commercialization in Canada and the United States.

It concluded: "Issues related to the environment, consumer acceptance and operating safety of food irradiation projects are so complex that it is unlikely that such projects in developing countries will meet our stringent standards".

Canada, a member, investor, and shareholder in the IFC, is involved in many food irradiation projects abroad. The Canadian Government has declared the technology safe, and this summer it introduced regulations that permit the widespread use of the technology on Canadian foods.

When the only way that Canada can get food irradiation technology into Third World countries is by giving it away through CIDA, we certainly question the wisdom of imposing it on the Canadian public.

Once again I call on the Government to abandon its ill-considered plans for food irradiation, both in Canada and in the developing world.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

METROPOLITAN TORONTO—GARBAGE DISPOSAL—FEDERAL
ROLE SUGGESTED

Mr. Alan Redway (York East): Mr. Speaker, next to the housing crisis and the ever present danger of dioxin seeping into drinking water from the chemical dumps on the American side of the Niagara River, garbage disposal is the greatest problem facing the Metropolitan Toronto area.

Every Metro resident creates one kilogram—2.2 pounds—of garbage each day. Fifty per cent of all garbage comes from packaging. Individuals can help to reduce the amount of garbage by recycling and by using environment-friendly biodegradable shopping and garbage bags.

Just as the federal Government has a role to play in solving the housing crisis and in cleaning up toxic waste, it also has a role to play in reducing the amount of garbage generated by packaging. So let us get on with it.

* * *

[*Translation*]

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

REQUEST THAT 10-WEEK QUALIFYING PERIOD FOR BENEFITS BE
RETAINED

Mr. Fernand Robichaud (Westmorland—Kent): Mr. Speaker, in New Brunswick on the weekend, I heard things that trouble me. I heard angry words from people affected by the changes to the qualifying period for unemployment insurance. In many cases in New Brunswick, it is difficult to find 16 weeks of employment when under the best conditions, it is hard enough to find 10.

The workers' anger is a result of the Government's lack of concern for the problem. Although this Government changed the unemployment insurance regulations to accommodate people in a region of Quebec, it has done nothing for the people in New Brunswick.

This injustice cannot continue any longer. The Government is provoking the workers. The Government's inaction could have unfortunate consequences. The Government cannot threaten the income security of families and expect people to take it lying down. The Government must act now. It is urgent!

* * *

[*English*]

THE ECONOMY

FOURTH QUARTER JOB CREATION PROSPECTS

Mr. John Oostrom (Willowdale): Mr. Speaker, a poll reported by the *Montreal Daily News* on September 22 found