

*Oral Questions*

also tell us whether or not the Government is ready to introduce legislation as it promised in 1980, before any other lay-offs occur in this country?

● (1430)

**Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Finance):** The answer to the first question, Madam Speaker, is absolutely no. The answer to the second question, I believe, has been answered by the previous Minister of Finance in his budgetary statement last November or last June.

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**INDUSTRY****PLACEMENT OF SACKVILLE, N.B. FIRM IN RECEIVERSHIP**

**Mr. Lyle S. Kristiansen (Kootenay West):** Madam Speaker, my question on the matter of employment is directed to the Minister of Public Works, who is also responsible for New Brunswick's affairs in Cabinet. The Minister recently received representations from Tantramar MLA Bob Hall, and other local New Brunswick leaders, regarding the imminent placing into receivership of Sackville's largest commercial employer, Enterprise Foundry Co. Limited, a 110-year old locally owned company with 200 employees. In view of the fact that the company was placed into receivership at noon today, will the Minister tell us why there has not been a response to the request of the company president to call him back and discuss ways and means of saving or restructuring the company's position? Second, what have the Minister and the Government done, or are prepared to do now, to assist in preserving these 200 jobs and removing the Royal Bank's bolt from the door?

**Hon. Roméo LeBlanc (Minister of Public Works):** Madam Speaker, I need your guidance as to whether we are answering questions on a regional basis or on a departmental basis. But, certainly, I did not wait for the Hon. Member's new MLA in New Brunswick to try to do something on this issue. However, I believe the question belongs to my colleague, the Minister of Trade.

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**MINES AND MINING****ANNOUNCED CLOSURE OF PINE POINT MINES IN NORTHWEST TERRITORIES**

**Mr. Dave Nickerson (Western Arctic):** Madam Speaker, my question is directed either to the Minister of State for Mines or the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, whichever considers himself best qualified to answer. However, both of these Ministers should be aware of the latest disaster to hit the Canadian mining industry, that is, the announced closure of Pine Point Mines, which is the

biggest private employer in the Northwest Territories. Hundreds of people will be affected by the lay-offs. What is the Government planning to do to help those people who will be affected by the closure?

**Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development):** Madam Speaker, many of the programs of my colleague, the Minister of Employment and Immigration, are available, and I am sure this has been communicated to the employment people, to say nothing about the very significant programs announced by my colleague, the Minister of Finance, here a few weeks ago in terms of the NEED Program which will be available sometime in early January or February.

I might also indicate, Madam Speaker, there are other places in the Territories where there is virtually a boom economy and many job offers are open to employees. I am referring, particularly, to Norman Wells, which project this Government, in a very far-sighted way, announced about a year ago. I am told they are advertising for employees right now to go to Norman Wells. Perhaps some of the employees there will still find job opportunities in the Territories.

**Mr. Nickerson:** I thank the Hon. Minister for that announcement regarding Norman Wells, but I do not know if that is really going to help the miners in Pine Point too much, immediately.

**REQUEST THAT MINISTER INTERVENE**

**Mr. Dave Nickerson (Western Arctic):** My supplementary question, Madam Speaker, is in two parts. First, could the Minister give us his assurance that he is prepared to meet personally with officials of the steelworkers' union, and officials of Cominco, to see if anything can be worked out to help prevent lay-offs and, hopefully, to prevent closure? Second, could he undertake to review the rates charged by Crown Corporations such as NCPC and the Canadian National Railway? Could he review those rates to see whether a reduction in those rates might mean that the mine would not have to close and lay off both mine workers and railway workers?

**Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development):** Madam Speaker, my answer to the Hon. Member's first question is, yes, of course, I would be more than happy to meet with Cominco and the steelworkers anytime they desire, to see whatever can be done by my own Department, of the Departments on my colleagues, which would be of real assistance in this situation, because it is an unfortunate one. My answer to the Hon. Member's second question regarding NCPC rates is, yes, we can check to see if some action on the part of NCPC might alleviate the situation, and I will get back to the Hon. Member on that.