

*Oral Questions*

councillors of Labrador City to the Minister of National Revenue concerning the plight faced by mine workers in Labrador City, northern Quebec and surrounding areas because of the declining market for iron ore. Madam Speaker, has the Minister of State for Mines recommended to the Minister of Finance a response to the Minister of National Revenue which would bring satisfaction to the residents of Labrador City who are faced with a serious crisis in their local economy as a result of the iron ore cutbacks?

**Hon. Judy Erola (Minister of State (Mines)):** Madam Speaker, the telegram has not been brought to my attention yet. I will answer the question when I am made aware of its contents.

## EFFECT OF PROPOSED UNITED STATES LEGISLATION

**Mr. Thomas Siddon (Richmond-South Delta):** Madam Speaker, the Minister of State for Mines will also know, I presume, of a bill introduced to the United States Congress by Senator Peter Domenici who has suggested that United States consumers of uranium have their allowable imports restricted to 20 per cent of consumption in any particular nuclear installation. That will have a tremendously devastating impact on uranium mining in places like Kirkland Lake where we might see as many as 2,000 mine workers unemployed as a result of such legislation. What action is the Minister of State for Mines recommending to the Secretary of State for External Affairs and the government, to ensure that this type of countervailing measure in retaliation for the confiscatory aspects of the National Energy Program is stopped immediately?

**Hon. Judy Erola (Minister of State (Mines)):** Madam Speaker, I should like to make one point very clear to the hon. member. There is no uranium mined in Kirkland Lake at all. It is gold, pretty well. The uranium mining that takes place in Ontario is in Elliot Lake.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mrs. Erola:** I should like to assure the hon. member that we are aware of the situation and are following it very closely.

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## INDIAN AFFAIRS

## PROVISION OF JOB CREATION FUNDS FOR MICMAC INDIAN BAND

**Mr. Jim Manly (Cowichan-Malahat-The Islands):** Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. One of the problems in reaching a tripartite agreement with the Micmac people of Restigouche in the province of Quebec concerning fishing rights is the Quebec government's concern about too much pressure on salmon stock. It wants some assurance from the federal government

that funds will be made available for job creation so that the Indian people will not be completely dependent upon the fishing resource.

Will the minister assure the House that job-creation funds and a proper economic development program will be put in place so that the Micmacs and the Quebec government can agree on a fishing quota that will not harm the salmon stock? Will the federal government meet its responsibilities for economic development on this reserve which has had over 80 per cent unemployment?

**Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development):** Madam Speaker, the hon. member knows that one of the major economic issues of this government, as a result of the last budget, was to put a top priority on economic development for natives to the tune of \$245 million over the next four years. Approximately \$75 million is to be allocated this year. This is in addition to all the other moneys presently programmed which the hon. member will note in the votes in our estimates for economic development for native people. So, of course, Restigouche will be considered in that context.

I hope the hon. member is not misled. The feeling of the Indian chief at Restigouche is that they want the Quebec government to continue to agree to the quota it set some weeks ago and not try to alleviate the responsibility for changing its mind by switching the blame to the federal government at this particular time.

## PROTECTION OF MIC MAC FISHING RIGHTS

**Mr. Jim Manly (Cowichan-Malahat-The Islands):** Madam Speaker, we have heard many times about the \$75 million that is supposed to be allocated for Indian economic development. We have not seen any of it yet, and neither have the Indian people. In view of the deteriorating situation in the negotiations with the Micmac people and the Quebec government, will the minister assure the Micmac people that, if a mutually satisfactory agreement cannot be reached, the aboriginal rights of the Micmac people regarding fishing will be protected and that there will be no repetition of last year's disgraceful raid?

**Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development):** Madam Speaker, I would be prepared, and I am sure every member of this House would be prepared also, to take every possible step to avoid the unfortunate situation that happened at Restigouche last year. That is why my officials met with the Quebec officials yesterday and today, for that very purpose, to protect the quota that the Indian people regard as evidence of their Indian fishing rights in that particular area. That is a quota that was recognized some weeks ago by the Quebec government. We hope to reinstal that quota. We hope that Quebec will keep to its commitment on the previous quota that it agreed to some weeks ago. We feel that the Indian people then will regard this