

perception that your real attitude to negotiations has been one of duplicity, deception, lack of will and a betrayal of your trust obligations to the Indian people of Canada.

While we have been negotiating in good faith and trusting your empty assurances of support, the Department of Indian Affairs has proceeded to implement unilaterally a 1983-84 budget plan that strikes tragically at the heart of already under-funded services to Indian people—

Madam Speaker: Order.

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[Translation]

AGRICULTURE

EFFECT OF PROGRESSIVE TAX ON QUEBEC FARMERS

Mr. Marcel Dionne (Chicoutimi): Madam Speaker, some time ago in Quebec a united movement started to protest against the tabling by the Hon. Minister of Transport (Mr. Pepin) of a working document claiming on behalf of the Quebec Minister of Agriculture that its purpose was to ensure the survival of the agrifood industry in Quebec.

Madam Speaker, there is in Quebec an escalating tax on energy which has fattened the Quebec government's treasury by as much as \$900 million. It is also a well known fact that the agrifood industry accounts for some 25 per cent of all the economic activity in the province, which means that through that escalating tax, Quebec farm producers have been deprived of tens of millions of dollars. Madam Speaker, I feel that we should be concerned about these escalating taxes which impoverish Quebec farm producers much more than their counterparts elsewhere in Canada, because this sort of tax is outright dishonest for Quebec farm producers.

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[English]

ABORIGINAL RIGHTS

STATUS OF NATIVE WOMEN UNDER CONSTITUTIONAL ACCORD

Mr. F. Oberle (Prince George-Peace River): Madam Speaker, native leaders left Ottawa last week hoping that at the very least the Constitutional Conference had opened the door to a new spirit of co-operation and trust between the Government and native peoples. Imagine their horror when they found that the Minister of Justice (Mr. MacGuigan) and other Government officials had deliberately deceived them by failing to amend the Accord to entrench equality between native men and women, after promising to do so.

Despite the attempts by some provincial Ministers of Justice to change the wording in a meeting Tuesday night, and a promise by the federal Minister of Justice to native leaders on Wednesday afternoon, the final Accord laid before the native people in the last moments of the Conference was not changed. What has now been entrenched in the Constitution is a clause guaranteeing native rights and their equality for men and women, as they now exist. Everyone knows, however, that our

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existing statutes and the Indian Act clearly discriminate against native women, and the new Accord therefore is meaningless. The Accord that had been agreed to by all participants was deliberately and without further consultation changed to suit the Government's own needs.

Canadians everywhere have the right to expect a higher standard of morality on the part of their Government officials. The betrayal of provincial Ministers and native peoples alike is a shame on the Minister and his Government.

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LABOUR CONDITIONS

PLEA ON BEHALF OF THE UNEMPLOYED

Hon. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Madam Speaker, I am ready to admit that I have done quite a bit of thinking about the debates in this House of Commons in which I started to take part more than 40 years ago. I may say that, even before then, I was active for ten years or more in the politics of those days. I think about the period of activity in this country for the past 50 years. I think we have done something. We have made some important gains with Old Age Pensions, health care, allowances for children and so on. There are things of which we can be proud, but there is something that we have failed to do again and again.

There are people in this country who are lacking employment, who do not have a useful part to play in making life great in Canada. We must make that one of the aims in our effort to make life in Canada really worth-while. We have to make that effort. I would say, Madam Speaker, that for heaven's sake, we should do it now.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

LABOUR CONDITIONS

UNEMPLOYMENT AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE

Mr. Tom McMillan (Hillsborough): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Employment and Immigration. A Canadian Press wire story handed me just a few minutes ago quotes the Minister as having told national student leaders today that he can offer nothing but faint hope in the face of the mass unemployment among youth from coast to coast: "Students can expect a lot more of the same, more unemployment."

With 600,000 Canadians between the ages of 15 and 24 out of work, and with another 600,000 about to enter an uninviting labour market from the educational institutions of the country, is the Minister suggesting in his quotations, to which I have