

The Minister of National Revenue and the Minister of Justice are fully apprised of the problem. They are taking immediate steps to try to correct it in accordance with every means available to them.

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THE ENVIRONMENT

Mr. Jack Iyerak Anawak (Nunatsiaq):

[Editor's Note: Member spoke in Inuktitut.]

[English]

My question is for the Minister of State for the Environment. Despite strong objections from northern residents the Department of the Environment has recently approved a permit for Panarctic Oils to dump as much as 400 tonnes of scrap metal into the Arctic Ocean.

The people of the north are sick and tired of northern lands and waters being used as dumping grounds for other people's garbage.

Will the minister tell the House why her department has approved the use of the Arctic Ocean as a garbage dump and why Panarctic was not asked instead to completely remove its garbage from the north?

Hon. Mary Collins (Minister of Western Economic Diversification and Minister of State (Environment) and Minister Responsible for the Status of Women): Mr. Speaker, like all colleagues I am working very hard to ensure that environmental standards are maintained. Every effort is to ensure that anywhere garbage or refuse is to be brought has to come within our standards.

The particular situation my hon. colleague refers to obviously must be addressed. I will provide further information to him on it.

Mr. Jack Iyerak Anawak (Nunatsiaq): Mr. Speaker, this proposed dumping is simply not acceptable to the people of the north who live in this area and who depend on the resources of the ocean for their food. Will the minister agree today to put an immediate stop to this proposed dumping?

Hon. Mary Collins (Minister of Western Economic Diversification and Minister of State (Environment) and Minister Responsible for the Status of Women): Mr. Speaker, I am not aware of the details of that particular

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situation. I will certainly take it under advisement and get back to the hon. member.

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MINING

Ms. Ethel Blondin-Andrew (Western Arctic): My question is for the Minister of Labour.

The strike at Giant Yellowknife mine is in its ninth month. Nine lives have already been lost. It has been the most divisive, destructive labour dispute in Canadian labour history.

The minister responsible has not exercised his jurisdiction to the fullest on this matter. What contingency plans does he have to deal with the aftermath of the decision of the disputes inquiry?

Hon. Marcel Danis (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, I think it would be most inappropriate for me to answer the question as put by my hon. friend when now in Yellowknife an industry inquiry is under way. The CLRB, the Canadian Labour Relations Board, is there. To ask me now what I will do when the decision is made is totally inappropriate, and I cannot answer that question.

Ms. Ethel Blondin-Andrew (Western Arctic): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is to the minister. What is inappropriate is his not spending as much time in the cold and the snow with the rest of us in Yellowknife as he does basking on the beaches in southern climes.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member may wish to put a question. Please put it.

Ms. Blondin-Andrew: Mr. Speaker, the economic and community structures of the city of Yellowknife are falling apart as a result of this strike. Businesses are faltering. Some have even gone under. Families and friendships have been destroyed through the violence.

When will the minister take direct action and set up a contingency plan—it is also inappropriate to be unprepared in the event that this fails—to end this destructive situation? What plans does he have?

Hon. Marcel Danis (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, the reason I have a tan is probably because I spend a lot of time in the House of Commons with these lights, more than the hon. member does.

The issue raised by my hon. friend is a most serious one and of course the government recognizes it.