

S. O. 31

Even the mayor of Montreal condemned the government, saying that its unemployment insurance policies might cost Montrealers as much as \$490 million. That is enough. People cannot stand it any more.

* * *

[*English*]**NIAGARA RIVER**

Mr. Ken Atkinson (St. Catharines): Mr. Speaker, on January 15 there was a public meeting in Niagara Falls, New York, to hear reports by representatives of the environment departments of the United States, Canada, Ontario and New York State on their efforts to clean up toxic waste in the Niagara River.

We heard about the many difficulties encountered in measuring the various polluting chemicals and it seemed to me that there was a great deal of uncertainty as to whether the goal of 50 per cent reduction set in the Niagara River clean-up agreement would be attained by the target date.

We know that the largest source of these chemicals is the chemical waste sites located on the American side of the river. There are efforts under way to contain these chemicals leaching into the river and promises of a dramatic decline in a few years.

The government has to ensure that these actions are successful. This pollution affects all of us who live close to the Niagara River or live near Lake Ontario and take our drinking water from this source. This is a health issue for all of us.

It is essential that we heed the international joint commission which has called for the entire elimination of these chemicals. It is a goal that we simply must reach.

* * *

GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

Mr. Brian L. Gardiner (Prince George—Bulkley Valley): Mr. Speaker, Canadians got the usual from the Liberal Party last week when it tried to explain what its position on the GST was or was not.

From what we can figure out the Liberals have now adopted the Reform Party position of expanding the GST to include more items, even the possibility of taxing food.

My constituents do not agree with this. In a recent survey of my riding, when asked if they would support an extension of the GST to food, 95 per cent of the respondents said no and 78 per cent said that we can eliminate the GST and bring in fair taxes.

New Democrats were the only party that presented an alternative to the GST when it was introduced and we are the only party committed to eliminating the tax, presenting alternatives and bringing in a fair tax system.

* * *

INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. Jack Iyerak Anawak (Nunatsiag):

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

[*English*]

Mr. Speaker, this government has two faces when it deals with aboriginal peoples, an international face and a domestic face.

On December 2 the Minister of Finance announced that certain aboriginal programs would be cut by 10 per cent or \$80 million. On December 10 the current Secretary of State rose in the United Nations General Assembly to introduce a resolution establishing 1993 as the International Year of the World's Indigenous Peoples. The General Assembly was not told of the government's planned cutbacks nor was it told of previous years' cutbacks.

All of the Secretary of State's aboriginal programs, core funding, broadcasting, language and culture programs are under the knife but final decisions have not yet been made. The Secretary of State must defend these programs. The government must cancel the cuts. The government can still give some meaning to 1993.

* * *

INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAMS

Mr. Sergio Marchi (York West): Mr. Speaker, obviously, members of the NDP are very worried about the upcoming election. Instead of trying to blame everyone else, they should look at their friends and fellow brothers and sisters at Queen's Park. They should ask them why between the NDP government at Queen's Park and the Conservative government at the national level the unemployment figures in Toronto and Ontario have been allowed to continue in misery.