

that, rather than engaging in this kind of baiting, what they should be considering is how they can put their efforts to work in their ridings to help the unemployed.

DESIGNATION OF COMMUNITIES IN ALBERTA

Mr. Jack Shields (Athabasca): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Employment and Immigration. The national energy policy totally destroyed the local economies of Bonnyville, Grande Prairie, Swan Hills, Beaver Lodge, Drayton Valley, Two Hills, Vermilion, Lloydminster, Brooks and Nisku, all communities in Alberta. Recognizing that there is to be an increase in the CCDP funding to each constituency, would the minister consider targeting those communities devastated by the national energy policy under the development component of his announcement yesterday?

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member is too learned and wise a member of this House to try to pass off that particular premise. As he well knows, the changes in the energy industry are worldwide in their impact, and—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Axworthy:—the United States of America, which does not have the kind of enlightened energy policy that we brought in, is facing an even more substantial downturn in its industry at the present time. But what we are prepared to do through our employment programs is to take a look at those areas, regions and communities in the country which are facing downturns in their economic or industrial base and try to provide additional assistance to them.

The reason we kept the additional \$41 million in reserve was to provide a special response fund so that we could respond to those areas which are facing both immediate problems and need that kind of assistance. I would obviously be very glad, as I have been in the past, to talk to the hon. member for Athabasca concerning the problems in his riding.

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INDUSTRY

STEEL COMPANY LAY-OFFS IN WESTERN CANADA

Mr. Les Benjamin (Regina West): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. In view of the fact that the present projected lay-offs for the Interprovincial Steel and Pipe Company in western Canada are now approaching 1,000, and since the minister met with the company and the union which made a number of recommendations to him, and since they informed him that just for Saskatchewan alone the lay-offs in Regina mean 2,000 more direct and indirect jobs, which is equivalent to 54,000 lay-offs in Ontario and Quebec, can the minister tell us what he will do in response to the recommendations made to him by the company and by the union, and when will he meet with them again to deliver that response?

Oral Questions

Hon. Herb Gray (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce and Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Mr. Speaker, recently I had a very useful meeting with the management and representatives of the workers of Ipsco in Regina, and I have been working in conjunction with other departments on the points in their brief. A number of the points deal with matters of energy policy and tariff policy and, as I said to them, I hope to be meeting with representatives of both management and the union before too long to discuss a response to their brief.

• (1450)

REQUEST FOR REMOVAL OF TARIFF REDUCTIONS FROM STEEL IMPORTS

Mr. Les Benjamin (Regina West): Mr. Speaker, Ipsco and three other Canadian companies have already filed suit against South Korea, South Africa, Belgium and Luxembourg for anti-dumping practices. Since the government failed to make any representations to those countries before our steel industry was damaged, while it is cosying up to the military dictator from South Korea who will visit this country shortly, will it make representations, demands upon, or present ultimatums to the President of South Korea to the effect that that country will no longer receive a 6 per cent tariff reduction for its steel products that are brought into Canada, and will the same condition be made to apply to all other countries that are dumping in Canada?

Hon. Herb Gray (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce and Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Mr. Speaker, I will be happy to draw the hon. member's representations to the attention of the Minister of Finance. With respect to the anti-dumping investigation, I am sure the officials of my colleague, the Minister of National Revenue, will want to pursue that matter as vigorously and actively as possible.

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EMPLOYMENT

DIRECT JOB-CREATION PROGRAM—AVAILABILITY OF APPLICATION FORMS

Mr. Maurice Foster (Algoma): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Employment and Immigration. Yesterday the minister announced a \$300 million direct employment program for the coming winter. In view of the urgency of providing these jobs during the fall and winter months, and the time that is required by Indian bands and municipalities to prepare applications for the community development program, can the minister tell us when application forms will be made available and how soon the projects will be able to start this fall?

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, application forms will be available by the middle of August. We hope to have all the applications in on the termination date, September 30, and after that the