

*Oral Questions*

**Mr. Steven W. Langdon (Essex—Windsor):** Mr. Speaker, how is it possible to describe a \$103,000 increase in five years as restraint? It is not just salaries, either, at the bank that have gone up, travel has gone up 25 per cent and staff expenses over 11 per cent.

• (1440)

How can the government justify this rich life for those very Bank of Canada people who are telling the rest of this country to pull in their belts?

**Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, I described to the hon. member, in response to a previous question, the specifics of the Bank of Canada situation last year.

The basic salary increase was 4 per cent over there. The salary increases for senior public servants, including the senior officers of the Bank of Canada, from here forward will be exactly the same as for deputy ministers, including the ministers on this side who will be taking a freeze of their ministerial pay. In this range of ways we are demonstrating restraint.

I would expect that we would get a little bit more support from the hon. member for this restraint policy, because it will help the companies that he is concerned about in Windsor, the same companies that he stands up and complains about their difficulties in meeting the competition from across the border—

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member for Algoma.

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### MINING

**Mr. Maurice Foster (Algoma):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Employment and Immigration. She knows that this Friday over 1,000 miners will be laid off at Denison Mines in Elliot Lake. This will bring the total to over 3,300 lay-offs or 80 per cent of the mining jobs there since last July.

I want to tell the minister that these miners are being told that it will take seven or eight weeks for them to get UIC benefits. I wonder if the minister, in spite of the fact that they have only had little over a week's notice of the lay-off, could step into this situation, take action and

ensure that these payments are made in a prompt way, and not have these miners and their families wait seven or eight weeks for the benefits from their UIC.

**Hon. Barbara McDougall (Minister of Employment and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, I thank the hon. member for his ongoing concern in this area.

We have of course continued to pay special attention to this part of Ontario that has been hit very hard with some job cuts. All I can assure the hon. member is that I will look into the processing times. Clearly we want to provide our services as efficiently as possible there as elsewhere.

**Mr. Maurice Foster (Algoma):** I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker.

Over two months ago the minister had put before her department a program for industrial adjustment under the Community Futures Program of \$6.3 million. I wonder, in view of the importance of training, retraining and upgrading programs to these miners who are being laid off and additional ones, if the minister can approve immediately that budget.

I ask this question because I am concerned about the \$100 million cutback in the budget by the Minister of Finance and want to ensure that miners who lose their jobs and other Canadians are not going to be affected adversely when it comes to industrial adjustment, training and manpower programs.

**Hon. Barbara McDougall (Minister of Employment and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, I want to assure the hon. member that, thanks to the passage of Bill C-21, of course we do have additional funding for training, training allowances, Community Futures and so on. There is actually a net increase in the amount of money that will be available over all rather than a cut.

I would also like to point out that actually the funding that has gone into this region in the last year has been close to \$9 million. We will continue to watch events as they arise.

We are of course concerned about other parts of northern Ontario as well. They have benefited from our industrial adjustment service and from Community Futures, as has the region the hon. member represents.