

S.O. 22

example, many reserves have prime lands close to major urban centres with potential for both residential and commercial development.

It is estimated that some 50 large-scale resource development projects will impact directly on native communities in the 1980s and 1990s. Many are in the petroleum industry but several others involve the hydroelectric, mining, water control—

Mr. Speaker: I want to remind the Member his time has expired.

* * *

CAPE BRETON DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

CANCELLATION OF COAL MINING PROJECTS

Mr. Dave Dingwall (Cape Breton-East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, it is all too common for the management of the Cape Breton Development Corporation to blame the work force for problems it has created itself.

In the past few weeks there has been a steady stream of broken promises from the Government and the breaking of faith on the part of management. The Government of Canada has decided that the Donkin Mine will not be developed. The coal preparation plant at Prince Mine has been axed and, worst of all, the Government has turned a blind eye to the plight of the Town of Glace Bay, a community built on coal mines that now finds itself without its economic heart. The Government refuses to consider a coal mine for this community which has an unemployment rate more than five times the national average.

● (1410)

Industrial relations are falling to an all-time low. The present management has taken a giant step backward by instituting a system of having front line supervisors start counselling UMWA coal-miners. These men do not need a paternalistic management; they need one that recognizes the contributions and sacrifices of men who risk their lives every day to extract a resource. If management wants respect, it should start respecting the men who have made the real contribution to the Cape Breton coal industry.

* * *

DISARMAMENT

U.S.S.R. PROPOSAL TO REDUCE NUCLEAR ARMAMENTS

Mr. Lee Clark (Brandon-Souris): Mr. Speaker, all Canadians, including those in a grade nine class in Virden, Manitoba, with whom I recently met, fervently desire the preservation of world peace. As a result, we applaud any serious proposal, irrespective of its origin, which might lead to fully verifiable nuclear disarmament.

While many Canadians, myself included, believe that the credibility of General Secretary Gorbachev's recent proposal for a nuclear-free world by the year 2000 would be substantially enhanced by an immediate decision to withdraw Soviet invasion forces from Afghanistan, the Gorbachev initiative still deserves serious consideration. Consequently, I and other Canadians welcomed the positive and thoughtful statement which the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Clark) made in response to the Gorbachev proposal last Thursday. Now, however, I urge both the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) and the Secretary of State for External Affairs to capitalize upon Canada's significantly improved relationship with the United States to ensure that American officials explore thoroughly this and any other proposal which may lead to fully verifiable nuclear disarmament.

Soviet officials must also be reminded of the need to address the substantial imbalance in conventional arms which is in the Soviet's favour, as that imbalance has led to the establishment of the western European-based nuclear forces as a deterrent. The fear and distrust which have prevailed since the cold war have let to a rapidly escalating arms race. If, as we hope, there is now a mutual will on the part of all world powers to de-escalate that arms race, much of the fear and distrust will disappear.

Mr. Speaker: I regret to inform the Hon. Member that his time has expired.

* * *

[*Translation*]

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

NEW GOVERNMENT POLICY CONCERNING BENEFITS

Mr. Fernand Robichaud (Westmorland-Kent): Mr. Speaker, the Conservative Government's new policy on unemployment insurance for early retirees is unfair and unjustified.

Formerly, an early retiree who met all the criteria was entitled to unemployment insurance, even if he was getting a pension. Now this pension is considered as income, and early retirees are no longer eligible for the full amount of unemployment insurance benefits.

Even worse, these people have not been informed of the new policy. It was adopted by Order in Council, and the Government gave this new measure very little publicity. There was no debate in the House on the subject.

Furthermore, Armed Forces pensioners are also being denied unemployment insurance benefits, despite the fact they contributed to the Unemployment Insurance fund throughout the period they were in the Armed Forces.

Mr. Speaker, I think this new Conservative measure is very unfair to our pensioners, and in my opinion, the Government ought to get rid of this policy.