

*Government Orders***SAMSON CREE NATION**

**Mr. Robert E. Skelly (Comox—Alberni):** Mr. Speaker, the Federal Court has ordered the department of Indian affairs to negotiate the transfer of \$404 million in oil and gas royalties held in trust by them to the Samson Cree Nation and its trust company, Peace Hills Trust. It is estimated that the Samson Cree have lost up to \$100 million in potential investment income because of Indian affairs mismanagement of their oil and gas royalties.

If the minister of Indian affairs really believes in self-government, will he authorize his officials, who are meeting with the Samson Cree Nation in Edmonton next week, to take immediate steps to transfer the oil and gas royalties held by the government in trust to their rightful owners, the people of the Samson Cree Nation?

**Hon. Thomas Siddon (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development):** Mr. Speaker, consistent with the desire of this government to replace many of the outdated provisions of the Indian Act which involve trusteeship with new alternative forms of legislation and the means being made available to bands to administer their own funds and lands, we are certainly working toward a proper legal framework wherein Indian trust accounts can be turned over to the band leadership.

In this case, the hon. member is raising a matter which has been the subject of deliberation before the courts. My officials are in negotiation about the matters raised by the Samson Indian band and a decision will be forthcoming soon.

\* \* \*

**PRESENCE IN GALLERY**

**Mr. Speaker:** I wish to draw the attention of hon. members to the presence in the gallery of the Hon. Walter Carter, Minister of Fisheries, Government of Newfoundland and Labrador.

**Some hon. members:** Hear, hear.

**GOVERNMENT ORDERS**

[English]

**FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL FISCAL ARRANGEMENTS  
AND FEDERAL POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION  
AND HEALTH CONTRIBUTIONS ACT**

MEASURE TO AMEND

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Mazankowski that Bill C-60, an act to amend the Federal-Provincial Fiscal Arrangements and Federal Post-Secondary Education and Health Contributions Act, be read the third time and passed.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois):** At the suspension of the debate the hon. member for Surrey North had eight minutes left.

**Mr. Jim Karpoff (Surrey North):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to continue the presentation I was making before the noon hour break.

One of the things that is repeatedly happening is that this government is dumping the problem on to the provinces and then limiting the financial ability of the provinces to pay for the results.

I would like to mention three basic areas in which this is happening. Two years ago the federal government changed the Unemployment Insurance Act. Basically it dumped the responsibility for premiums on to small businesses, local municipalities, hospital boards and workers.

When the government withdrew its \$3 billion contribution to UI it then limited the number of weeks a person could qualify for UIC and increased the number of weeks they would have to work. These actions resulted in an increase in the number of people going from unemployment insurance to welfare.

Of course, when they went on to welfare the federal government was responsible for 50 per cent of the cost under the Canada Assistance Plan. Then the government took the next step, which was to limit its obligation under the Canada Assistance Plan to 50 per cent in the three larger provinces.

This is inequitable because it is not applied fairly. It has meant that both the province of British Columbia and the province of Ontario have had to pick up the additional people on income assistance that should have