

REGIONAL INDUSTRIAL EXPANSION

WORKERS' OCCUPATION OF GLACE BAY GENERAL MINING BUILDING

Mr. Dave Dingwall (Cape Breton—East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Acting Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion. The Minister will know that a very serious situation has developed in Cape Breton whereby the United Mine Workers of America are presently occupying the management offices at the Glace Bay General Mining building. They are doing that out of total frustration with the Government of Canada. I ask the Minister very sincerely what steps he is prepared to take to have this matter resolved? Furthermore, would he tell the House what steps he and his colleagues are prepared to take in order to resolve the high unemployment amongst coal miners at the Cape Breton Development Corporation?

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, this is an issue which rightfully belongs within the Corporation's mandate, management, and the board of directors. Naturally, we are deeply concerned about the matter. We are very deeply concerned about the high levels of unemployment in that region. This Government is doing something about it. Close to a thousand new jobs have been created under the auspices of the initiatives of the former Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion. That work is continuing. There will be more jobs and more industrial initiatives to come in the future.

CAPE BRETON DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION—REQUEST FOR DEVELOPMENT OF EMPLOYMENT PLANS

Mr. Dave Dingwall (Cape Breton—East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, I say to the Minister, and I say it sincerely, this situation has the potential to become very serious. I do not want him to fluff it off to a highly paid executive in a Crown corporation who has demonstrated no concern or compassion for the workers in that area. Will the Minister give a directive to the President of the Cape Breton Development Corporation to commence immediately meaningful discussions on alternate plans in order to find employment for the in excess of 1,000 individuals who are without jobs at the Cape Breton Development Corporation? Would he do that?

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I am not fluffing the Hon. Member's representations off. I know he presents the problem in a very serious vein and I take his representations very seriously. I hope he would give me the opportunity to examine the situation and we will certainly see what we can do. I am in no way fluffing the issue off, but I do remind the Hon. Member of the responsibilities of the management of the Crown corporation. I think these things have to be dealt with in a very sensitive way. I hope he understands that.

Oral Questions

INDIAN AFFAIRS

SALMON FISHERY DISPUTE IN NORTHERN BRITISH COLUMBIA

Mr. Benno Friesen (Surrey—White Rock—North Delta): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, my question is directed to the Acting Minister. News reports coming out of northern British Columbia predict a conflict between Fisheries officers and Indian bands who are being given the right to establish a commercial fishery at the head waters of the rivers. In view of the fact this base for the industry is so sensitive, that the entire province depends on a strong resource base at the head waters, and that the new bylaws are threatening that base, would the Minister use the next 48 hours, which are so vital for this industry—

Mr. Deans: Question.

Mr. Friesen:—to do something about these bylaws because discussions are now ongoing—

Mr. Deans: Question.

Mr. Friesen:—which could bring unity to the industry?

Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I will take that representation and pass it on to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. However, I can tell the Hon. Member that with respect to the bylaws which could come into effect by June 15, both the Indian and non-Indian groups who have an interest in the fishery, I understand, are making arrangements to sit down to develop a regime whereby both groups can function and by which the resource will be both maintained and enhanced. That is the position the Minister is taking, and we will pass on the Hon. Member's representation as well.

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TRADE

TARIFF ON IMPORTED BOOKS

Mr. Steven W. Langdon (Essex—Windsor): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Finance. Yesterday the Canadian Book Publishers Council told Department of Finance officials that 4,000 jobs are at risk due to the Minister's thoughtless 10 per cent book tariff. Will the Minister now finally admit that he blew this one? Will he get rid of this tariff? And will he search for retaliation which hurts Americans instead of Canadians?

Mr. Deans: Hear, hear!

Mr. Boudria: Say you're sorry and you won't do it again.

Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, the simple answer is no. As I indicated to a previous questioner, the matter has been discussed with members of my staff,