

Oral Questions

CBC simply announced its plan for dealing with budget cuts that were part of the April 1989 budget.

Those plans include an acceleration of the four-year plan proposed by the government to deal with those cuts over a three-year period.

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MINES

Mr. Maurice Foster (Algoma): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. Last week, Rio Algom mines in Elliot Lake announced they were going to be laying off some 1,600 employees. Today, press reports suggest that Denison mines will likewise be laying off 700 employees this year.

Is the minister prepared to put in place a plan of action by the federal government, in co-operation with the municipality, the unions and companies involved, to minimize the adverse impact of the loss of these jobs in the uranium mine industry?

Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, it is disappointing when mines are closing. In fairness to what has been happening in Elliot Lake, the community, the workers and the company, as well as the hon. member, have been trying to work with the provincial and federal governments in reducing the impact. I think we all recognize that in terms of nuclear generation those mines have suffered, both from new contracts not being available and also the price of uranium having dropped below the \$10 mark.

Having said that, my colleagues, the Minister of Employment and Immigration and the Minister of State for Small Businesses and Tourism, responsible for FED-NOR, have given their good offices in whatever way they can to help in the adjustments. There are Community Futures programs available.

All of us recognize that this will not replace the 1,600 jobs, but we are going to be as helpful as we can to the people locally, as well as to the provincial government, to try and ease that reality and see what adjustments can be made so that Elliot Lake can not only survive but can also have a future.

Mr. Maurice Foster (Algoma): Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the hon. minister's words. The minister knows that with the magnitude of this loss of jobs we are not only talking about the miners who are laid off themselves but

we are talking about the very viability of the whole community, including small business, schools, churches, and hospitals.

• (1450)

Is the minister willing, at an early date, to visit the community of Elliot Lake to meet with the community action committee there to ensure, in co-operation with the unions, companies and the municipality, that every possible resource of the federal government is brought to bear to try to reduce the adverse impacts of the announcements which have been made in the last couple of days?

Hon. Barbara McDougall (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned yesterday in the House, the Industrial Adjustment Service and the Community Futures, because this area is designated as a Community Futures area, is designed to deal with just that kind of problem in terms of the over-all impact on the community and other opportunities.

I may say, on behalf of my colleague, the minister of energy, that I know several of us including myself have been in the hon. member's region. We sympathize with his concerns.

There are three or four ministers involved in the solutions, including the Minister of State for Small Businesses and Tourism with the responsibility for FED-NOR, which has already brought new activity to many parts of northern Ontario, as the hon. member knows. All of us take a personal interest in what is happening and will continue to do so.

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JUSTICE

Mr. Robert E. Skelly (Comox—Alberni): Mr. Speaker, the Marshall report was strongly critical of the behaviour of two federal judges. One judge was found to have persuaded then Liberal Justice Minister Chrétien to limit the scope of Marshall's appeal reference. Another judge should never have been appointed to the appeal panel in the first place because as Nova Scotia's Attorney General he was responsible for Marshall's original defective prosecution.

Since the minister has had this report in his hands for four days now and the jurisdiction over the federal judiciary is entirely within the responsibility of his ministry, will he immediately use his powers under Section