

Petitions

and the break up of the clans are well documented. The social and human losses were further aggravated by the economic losses which the bands suffered.

As the Hon. Member for Cochrane-Superior (Mr. Penner) points out, money cannot bring back the way of life that those people enjoyed before this pollution took its terrible toll. I believe money is best left uncommented upon because only time will tell if the compensation has been in any way adequate. However, I should note that the figures provided to the Minister do not add up. There is half a million dollars unaccounted for.

As I said, the health problems were enormous and I am glad to learn that the Province of Ontario has given its commitment to top up the original fund of \$2 million, once it has been depleted by claims of residents of those communities for the injury done to their health.

● (1520)

I would be remiss if I did not recognize John Olthuis and Bruce Crofts who worked on behalf of these bands for many long dedicated years and who put so much of themselves into this final solution, as we hope to see it.

I would also recognize Chief Arnold Pelly of Grassy Narrows and his many predecessors, particularly Simon and Steve Fobister, as well as Chief Roy MacDonald and his predecessors of the Islington Band at White Dog Falls for the efforts they have made. Above all I should recognize them for keeping the coherent efforts and commitments of their communities in working toward a solution when the frustration and exasperation which they felt might so easily have deteriorated into action against society and against those who inflicted injustice on them. I am glad to see that we are taking the first steps to correct this historic injustice.

I am sad to see that in many ways the Indian people continue to have second-class treatment from our society, though I do not allege it is on the level of what was inflicted upon the two bands.

When we see communities without the services which all of us take for granted, a community such as that of Lubicon Lake which does not have a land base, and communities such as Shoal Lake where economic development is stymied by the failure of the Government to live up to the previous Government's commitments, then we must acknowledge that there is still work to be done.

I am glad, therefore, to recognize this settlement and to add my Party's support of it.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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PETITIONS

FULL INDEXATION OF FAMILY ALLOWANCE

Miss Aideen Nicholson (Trinity): Mr. Speaker, I have petitions here signed by residents of Ottawa and also signed by

some public health nurses working in my riding in Toronto. These people are calling for the withdrawal of the deindexation of family allowances. The nurses point out that for many of the welfare families with whom they deal, family allowance money provides food for the last one and one-half weeks of the months.

Mr. Derek Blackburn (Brant): Mr. Speaker, I have two petitions, one from the University Women's Club of St. Catharines and another one signed by several persons in southwestern Ontario. The operative sentence in the petitions is "wherefore, the undersigned, your Petitioners, humbly pray and call upon the House of Commons to reinstate full indexation of universal family allowance and to rescind the unfair tax increases".

CALL FOR INQUIRY INTO USE OF TEST RANGE AT NANOOSE BAY

Mr. Jim Manly (Cowichan-Malahat-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, I have petitions from residents of the Nanaimo-Alberni riding concerned about the Canadian Forces maritime experimental and test range at Nanoose Bay, concerned about the United States of America's policy of neither confirming nor denying the presence of nuclear weapons on board U.S. vessels and urging that there be a full public inquiry before the present agreement is renegotiated.

FULL INDEXATION OF FAMILY ALLOWANCE AND REPEAL OF
TAX INCREASES

Mr. Jim Manly (Cowichan-Malahat-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, I have petitions from residents of Cowichan-Malahat-The Islands who are concerned about the family allowance deindexing proposal of the federal Government. They point out that this places an unfair burden upon low-income families, especially when coupled with the tax increases, and the unfairness of this is compounded when it is put side by side with the tax benefits made available to corporations and wealthy people. The petitioners call upon the House of Commons to reinstate full indexation of universal family allowance and to rescind the unfair tax increases.

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops-Shuswap): Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to present a petition on behalf of a number of residents who are concerned about the deindexing of family allowance, particularly when you put it on top of the sales tax increases, the increase in excise tax and other stiff income tax increases. They are asking the House of Commons, particularly the Government of Canada, to reinstate full indexation of universal family allowance and to rescind the unfair tax increases introduced in the last Budget.

MAIL DELIVERY IN SWIFT CURRENT, SASKATCHEWAN

Mr. Geoff Wilson (Swift Current-Maple Creek): Mr. Speaker, I have a petition from a number of residents of the Trail subdivision in the City of Swift Current, Saskatchewan.