

S.O. 21

B.C., it is the responsibility of the Minister today to rise in his place and announce the implementation of a full public inquiry into Alcan's hydroelectric project.

We in this House recognize that there will be some costs for an inquiry, but these are small when compared with the effects of the major diversion of water which will take 88 per cent of the Nechako, lower the Fraser River by three feet at Hell's Gate, join the Fraser and Skeena Rivers, and have major impact on fish stocks. The Minister must act, and I trust the Minister will announce the Kemano inquiry today.

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[Translation]

EMPLOYMENT

REQUEST FOR AID FOR RESIDENTS OF ASBESTOS, P.Q.

Mr. Alain Tardif (Richmond-Wolfe): Mr. Speaker, last Thursday, the Johns Manville Asbestos mining company announced that more than 225 workers would be laid off beginning next September 1. A few years ago, this mining company was providing work for over 2,700 people.

Next September, only 950 people will be working for the J.M. Asbestos Company. This disastrous situation has two underlying causes: first, the world market for asbestos is weak, and second, the Johns Manville Asbestos, a private company, having to compete with other asbestos companies owned by the Quebec Government, has been operating in spite of substantial deficits.

The town of Asbestos, which is a very important community in my constituency, has lost in excess of 1,500 very well-paid jobs. As this is a one-industry town, the results are simply terrible and tragic.

The Quebec Government having completely ignored this community, I urge the Canadian Government to take action and help the people of Asbestos.

Twice already, our Government has intervened, first by designating the region and later on, by providing assistance under the NEED program and by way of Section 38 of the Unemployment Insurance Act.

Once more, Mr. Speaker, I respectfully but firmly request an immediate intervention by the Government to help the Asbestos area and spare us a second Schefferville.

● (1410)

[English]

AUTOMOTIVE INDUSTRY

LOCATION OF JAPANESE CAR ASSEMBLY PLANT AT ALLISTON, ONT.

Mr. Ron Stewart (Simcoe South): Mr. Speaker, the residents of the Town of Alliston and the riding of Simcoe South are smiling proudly today in the wake of the announcement that Honda Motors will be building its new assembly plant in Tecumseth Township. As the Member of Parliament for this dynamic riding, let me welcome Honda to Alliston, and let me congratulate it on its far-sightedness in choosing this location for its \$100 million venture.

My good friends, Oak Gray, the Mayor of Alliston; Reeve Alan Glasford of Tecumseth Township, and the Hon. George McCague, MPP for Dufferin-Simcoe, are the type of progressive, forward thinking gentlemen who will ensure that both Honda and the surrounding communities will achieve the utmost benefit from this initiative.

When Honda goes looking for the 350 employees to run its plant, it will not have to go far. The labour force in Simcoe South is high calibre, dedicated, and equal to the task of operating one of Canada's newest and most modern industries. The area's network of transportation is second to none.

It is especially gratifying for me to watch Alliston, the birthplace of my mother, continue to grow and prosper. Mr. Speaker, to Honda Motors, let me say this: *Kangei no i wo hyoshemasu.*

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[Translation]

SOCIAL SECURITY

DECLARATION MADE BY QUEBEC SOCIAL AFFAIRS MINISTER

Mr. Marcel Roy (Laval): Mr. Speaker, with reference to the statement made by Dr. Laurin, Quebec Minister for Social Affairs, concerning the Old Age Security pensions and other pensions for Quebec senior citizens, I wish to say that during a visit to Manoir des Îles in Laval, I would like to officially register on behalf of the government of Canada objection to Dr. Laurin's request for a transfer of, any program either through tax points or transfer payments, to the Province of Quebec. Considering the attitude of that province's Premier towards senior citizens who, in his opinion, are against Item No. 1 of the PQ's platform dealing with Quebec's separation, Mr. Speaker, seniors citizens are urging us to oppose any change to the Old Age Security scheme or the Guaranteed Income Supplement or any other Quebec pension plan.