

*S.O. 21*

Mr. Lang uses quotes from the Conservative Prime Minister, R. B. Bennett, to support his case. That quote is, "If men enjoying large incomes have no ambition to go on the bench, then we have to fall back on the second line." Such an approach indicates that those who foreclose on people's mortgages, and those who work with the banks—

**Madam Speaker:** Order. The Hon. Member's time has expired.

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**THE ECONOMY**

## DROP IN RATE OF INFLATION

**Mr. Ray Chénier (Timmins-Chapleau):** Madam Speaker, I am pleased to rise today to tell the House that Canada's economic recovery program is working. The annual rate of inflation dropped to 5 per cent last month, which is the lowest rate in more than ten years. Not since August, 1972, has inflation been so low. A period of stabilization has now been reached.

In July and August the inflation rate was recorded at 5.5 per cent, and in May and June the rates were 5.4 per cent and 5.6 per cent respectively. We have reached an important plateau in our fight against inflation, thanks to the Canadian Government's six and five restraint program and to the cooperative efforts of the Canadian people.

There have been further signs of a new economic vitality. Since last November about 325,000 new jobs have been created, and the unemployment rate of 11.8 per cent in July has now dropped to 11.3 per cent. This is the lowest rate of unemployment since 1982. Food prices in September have dropped by one per cent, and this is the largest monthly decline in food prices in over five years. The Liberal Government has also managed to reduce the cost of living to 5 per cent from 12.5 per cent a little over a year ago. I see the Conservatives are starting—

● (1410)

**Madam Speaker:** Order, please. The Hon. Member's time has expired.

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**INDIAN AFFAIRS**

## IMPACT OF MEGAPROJECTS ON BRITISH COLUMBIA INDIAN BANDS

**Mr. F. Oberle (Prince George-Peace River):** Madam Speaker, having fallen victim to the many negative social, environmental, and ecological impacts usually associated with large resource type megaprojects, the people of the Carrier and Sekanie tribes are in the capital this week to seek recognition and redress for long outstanding injustices which have been perpetrated on them. Two major projects, Alcan Kemano I in 1952, and B.C. Hydro W. A. C. Bennett Dam, have

seriously disrupted the economic, social and cultural livelihood of the Sekanie, Inginika and FortWare bands, and the Carrier peoples, Gheslatta, and Ominika bands.

Whole communities have been flooded, trap lines destroyed, and in one instance they had to watch dead bodies float from a flooded cemetery. They live in the poorest conditions of any native communities in our country, often suffering from malnutrition and serious infectious disease. They are here soliciting funds and support to prepare themselves for yet another project of equal dimensions, Kemano II.

They know the world will not stand still for them, but they feel they can no longer be treated merely as part of the landscape. Attempts to meet with the appropriate Ministers have so far failed. Their only recourse will be action in the courts, which will neither serve their cause nor the cause of the proponents of the project. Let me remind the House of the problems associated with the James Bay Project when court action was taken.

I urge the Government and the Minister to listen and to act.

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**HUMAN RIGHTS**

## PLIGHT OF CIVIL RIGHTS ADVOCATES IN RUSSIA, SOUTH AFRICA AND GUATEMALA

**Mr. Bob Ogle (Saskatoon East):** Madam Speaker, each year in mid-October Amnesty International members around the world observe Prisoners of Conscience Week on behalf of people in prison for the non-violent expression of their opinions, the peaceful practice of their chosen religion, or for their colour, sex ethnic origin, or language.

This year Prisoners of Conscience Week is being devoted to men and women who have been punished by their Governments for their work in promoting human rights. This past week in my own City of Saskatoon there has been a cage in front of City Hall in which citizens are placed and where they have to remain until friends come to let them out. But around the world there are many cases of people who cannot be let out so easily.

For instance, seven years in a labour camp, to be followed by five years' internal exile, is the price Ukrainian writer Mykola Rudenko is paying for his efforts to publicize human rights violations in the Soviet Union. His wife, arrested for possessing smuggled copies of her husband's poems, is serving a ten-year sentence. She is in another labour colony 700 kilometres away.

In South Africa, Johnny James Issel, a leading campaigner for black civil and political rights, has spent most of the past ten years under administrative banning orders, or in detention without charge or trial.

In Guatemala, labour lawyer America Yolanda Urizar has "disappeared". A former victim of death threats for her work with local trade unions, she was abducted in March this year