

tions which were not related to municipalities, were paying the full fees.

So I am sure that the hon. member, in her constant quest for justice and equity, will agree that this is only fair.

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### ENERGY, MINES AND RESOURCES

**Mr. Maurice Foster (Algoma):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources.

Some six mining communities in the Timiskaming and Algoma districts are facing the loss of some 3,500 jobs this year because of the closure of mines. In Elliot Lake alone, this involves some 2,000 jobs for miners and another 1,500 estimated jobs in the service industries.

Is the government willing to put in place, in co-operation with the province of Ontario, an over-all economic recovery program to help these communities and the families who face the loss of their jobs, their homes and their livelihoods?

**Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman puts forward a point of view that is a very clear reflection of regrettable developments in northern Ontario and northern Quebec, to name two areas, particularly northern Ontario where his riding is located. He is correct about Elliot Lake. We have had some discussions in terms of Elliot Lake as to what might take place with respect to responding at least in part to the lay-offs. I remind him of the work of FEDNOR. It stands by, ready to help.

• (1150)

With respect to Community Futures and the work of the Department of Employment and Immigration, I should say the federal government has tried with decentralization in respect of the work of the Department of Veterans Affairs to move people from urban areas of Ontario to places like Kirkland Lake. These are steps we have taken. They do not replace the job loss. I would never pretend that that is the case. I do not know what the government of Ontario would have in mind, but

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appropriate contacts could obviously be made if those interests are there.

**Mr. Maurice Foster (Algoma):** Mr. Speaker, although FEDNOR is a useful program, in its three years of development it has created only about one-third of the number of jobs which will be lost in one year in this one industry.

Would the minister's department be prepared to take a leading role in putting together a major cash commitment for industrial and community adjustment, for decentralization of government offices out of Toronto and Ottawa and for a major funding commitment for economic restructuring for northeastern Ontario in the face of this tremendous emergency?

**Hon. Tom Hockin (Minister of (Small Businesses and Tourism)):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to answer that supplementary question because there is additional information which I can share with the member about FEDNOR and what is being done by the federal government in northern Ontario that would interest him.

First, he is wrong in terms of job-creation. FEDNOR has created over 1,400 jobs. That is very close to the level of concern for job creation that exists in Timiskaming now.

As the hon. member knows, FEDNOR has had a special task force there. We have had officials in the whole Kirkland Lake-Timiskaming area for the last four months putting together a strategy which answers a great deal of what he has suggested. Most important, I think we should work together with the province of Ontario to come up with a broader strategy. We are trying to do that. FEDNOR can help but we need a broader strategy and this we are doing.

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### THE ECONOMY

**Mr. Rod Murphy (Churchill):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Finance.

The minister has been very upset lately because we have compared his words of 1982 when he opposed a high interest rate policy, and his actions today when he is implementing and supporting a high interest rate policy. Yesterday, in answer to my question on wage controls, the minister said, and I quote: