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By the year 2000, more than 500 claims relating to encroachment on Indian lands or government failure to live up to treaties will be settled by a process now in the works, Siddon said in an interview

funding have been earmarked by cabinet to deal with the outstanding claims. He declined to reveal the amount. The department is working with Indian leaders to draft changes to the oft-criticized claims process in an effort to make

all land claims, not only those in-house, but those we expect to receive between now and the end of the decade." Among the changes being considered is the establishment of an independent office to process the claims, he said.

of Indian nation sovereignty will have to be approached cautiously, so as not to alarm the people affected by the transition. Goals proposed by Ontario, if imple-

but it would have limited powers to ensure that happened, he said. Rae will only be able to implement what the people of this province will accept, he added.

# \$1 million set to ease load on food banks

By Paula Todd  
TORONTO STAR

The Ontario government will spend \$1 million next year to ease the pressure on food banks, Social Services Minister Zanana Akande says.

The money, available in January, is earmarked for community groups to set up such "temporary measures" as communal kitchens, bulk-food co-operatives and information hotlines to direct people to social agencies or welfare services.

"The fund is designed to be a temporary support measure while the government addresses poverty by implementing longer-term solutions," Akande said in a news release yesterday.

"This recession is very difficult for many and demand for assistance in communities across Ontario is very high."

Akande was not available for comment after the announcement was released.

An information bulletin attached to the release says the fund is "not targeted at food banks, but at alternatives."

But yesterday, several ministry officials said food banks are eligible to apply for funding to buy food to restock their shelves. And that has food bank officials furious.

Last month, in the Legislature, Akande vowed she would help food banks "not by funding them, but in a way which will, in fact, put food in those people's mouths." She promised not to further institutionalize food banks.

Government funding institutionalizes food banks, critics say, and allows government to shirk its responsibility to help raise people's standards of living through higher social assistance, increased wages and affordable housing.

Yesterday, some food bank officials called the new fund a

dramatic policy reversal for the government, which has vowed to eliminate food banks in its first term.

"It's funding for food banks," FoodShare executive-director Richard Yampolsky said. "It's the same horse with different stripes."

He said food bank officials met with Akande and told her "that putting money in the pockets of social assistance recipients was the most effective way to shorten food bank lines. I guess she either didn't hear us or didn't believe us."

"I am really angry. Food banks do the government's job and now they want community groups to do the government's work, too."

Gerard Kennedy, executive-director of the Daily Bread Food Bank, said the Ontario Association of Food Banks recently begged Akande to attack poverty head-on and not fund stopgap measures like food banks.

"This move is going to be very injurious to people," Kennedy said. "If people get the wrong message and think food banks are now funded, we could have serious shortages over Christmas."

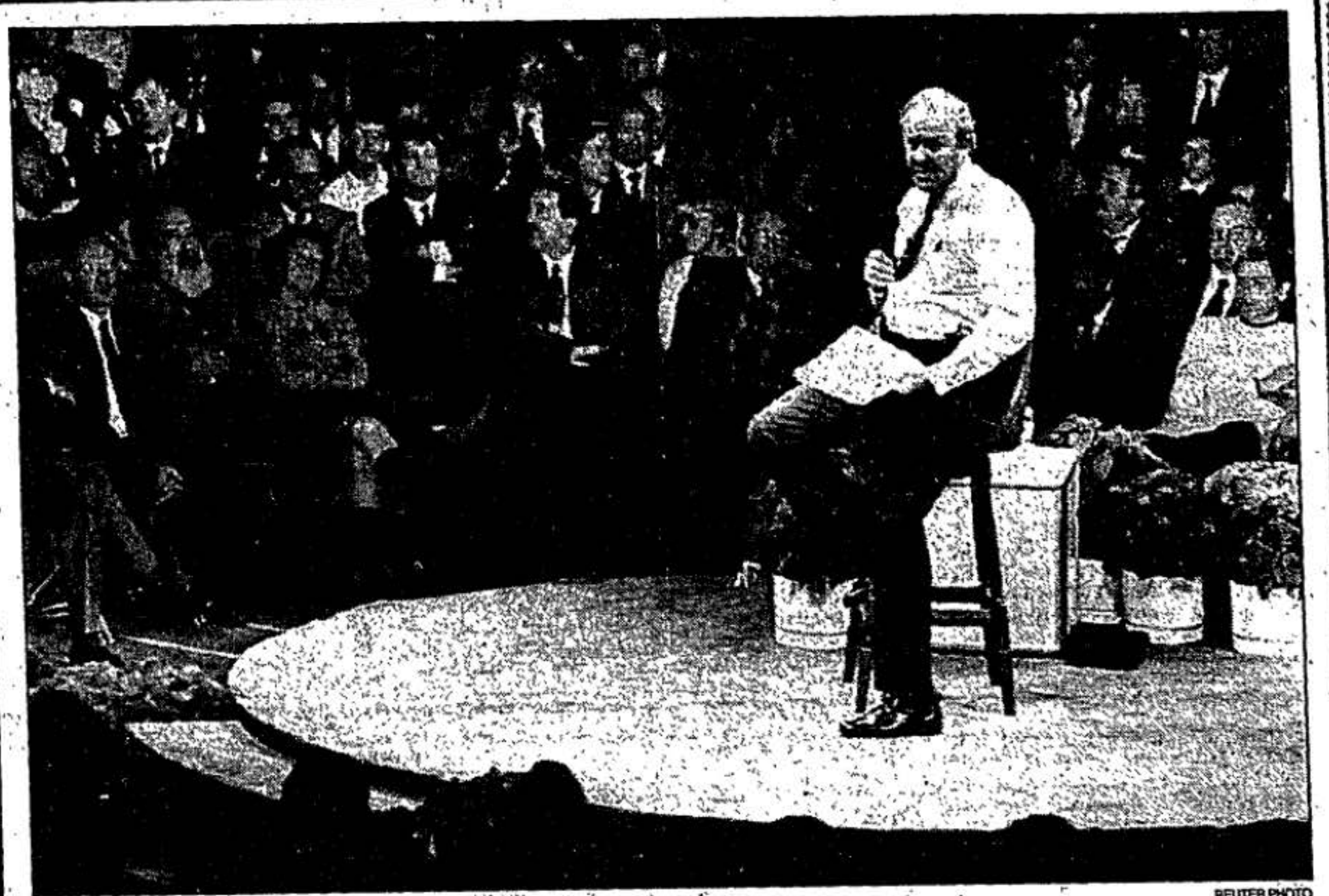
An estimated 65 Ontario communities have food banks, dispersing about \$4 million worth of food every month. About 105,500 people in Metro alone rely on food banks each month, Kennedy said.

Akande said the government is already considering projects to help food banks, including:

- Training for community workers and "roving information workers," who could refer people to social assistance agencies, including welfare, and help them complete application forms.

- Setting up a community co-operative to purchase food more cheaply in bulk for area residents.

Akande said she is working on long-term solutions.



REUTERS PHOTO

## JUST WHAT THE DOCTOR ORDERED?

Marc-Yvan Cote, Quebec's health and social services minister, yesterday explains what he believes is the right prescription to unclog emergency wards. He tells a crowd near Quebec city that he plans to levy a \$5 "deterrent" fee on some hospital visits. And high income earners may be taxed for certain medical services.

# Interpol, FBI help probe Brink's heist

MONTREAL (CP) — At least two international police forces are now involved in the investigation of a \$16 million theft of gold, jewels and securities from a Brink's plane at Dorval airport last weekend.

Interpol and the Federal Bureau of Investigation have joined a search for the robbers who pulled off Canada's second largest theft, a Brink's official said yesterday.

The two agencies were called in because the thieves are sitting on half a tonne of unrefined gold — worth more than \$6 million — that cannot be sold in Canada or the United States unless it is refined.

"Yes, Interpol and the FBI would definitely be notified on a robbery of this magnitude be-

cause of its international implications," said Marvin Moss from the world headquarters of Brink's in Darien, Conn.

Interpol is the European-based international police information network. The U.S.-based FBI, while primarily a domestic agency, has offices in some foreign countries, including Canada.

Early last Saturday, a team of armed bandits crashed through a fence at Dorval and attacked a small plane chartered by the security firm.

They held the pilot, co-pilot and guard at gunpoint while they unloaded 16 ingots of the unrefined gold, one ingot of refined gold, jewelry and a number of negotiable and non-

negotiable securities. The operation took only about two minutes, Pierre Sangollo, the director of Montreal's major crimes division, said yesterday.

The thieves left behind about \$16 million in cash because an armored truck — belonging to security firm Secur Inc. — was seen approaching the plane, said Sangollo.

"Looking back on it, maybe the thieves wish they'd grabbed the cash instead of the unrefined gold," he added. "That gold is going to have to be melted down in to a pure state in a very sophisticated refinery. I don't know whether they can find someone in Canada to do it for them."