

Oral Questions

takes place in the House, that we already had a motion in opposition to the Cruise, and we voted against the testing. We want the Government to live up to its obligations and bring back a motion after it makes a decision. Second, I would point out that we were not silent concerning the Soviets' treatment of the Poles, unlike the Prime Minister.

PRIME MINISTER'S RESPONSIBILITY

Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): I would like to ask the Prime Minister a question concerning a serious nuclear matter. Outside the House, at the United Nations and on other occasions, he has left the impression that he is genuinely concerned about debate and information and peaceful resolution of differences, which would lead to disarmament. Considering the fact that two-thirds of the Members of Parliament have not told their constituents where they stand on the Cruise issue, considering that his own Minister of National Defence has said that Canadians opposing the Cruise are "victims of misinformation", does the Prime Minister not think that he has a responsibility, when he reaches such a decision, to bring it back to Parliament for a decision of all Members of Parliament who are elected from all across Canada?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Madam Speaker, one of the reasons we have not yet authorized the testing of the Cruise is because the debate has not been completed and the debate has not been joined. We are in the process of discussing that whole subject. We are discussing it today with Vice-President Bush. The NATO Allies are expressing views upon it, and the debate is still going on.

● (1430)

The Hon. Member wants to have that debate in the House. He just says that there was a debate and the vote was taken. I do not know why he thinks that the next vote would be any different. If a whole new series of facts come out, if the debate proves that there should be re-examination of this, as the Government is constantly re-examining it, then the Hon. Member can ask the question again. But I put to him the fact—and the talks about the Soviet treatment of the Poles—if indeed he is sincere in referring to that, if he thinks that the Soviets can be so abject, if I can paraphrase him, why is he not a little bit concerned about the SS-20s? What was the reason for the deployment of this new weapon of terror on western Europe? Does he not think that there should be some process of negotiation which would get the Soviets to withdraw that weapon of terror? What is his position on that? I did not hear him mention it in the debate in the House of Commons.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Broadbent: You were not here for the debate.

REQUEST THAT GOVERNMENT PROMOTE DEBATE

Mr. Terry Sargeant (Selkirk-Interlake): Madam Speaker, my supplementary is also directed to the Right Hon. Prime Minister. For the last 15 days a young Canadian named Karen Harrison has been sitting in the gallery of this House while fasting, to demonstrate her concern over this whole issue of the Cruise missile. This concern is shared, as my Leader has pointed out, by over half of the people in the country.

I would like to ask the Prime Minister whether or not he believes that he has a responsibility to respond to the Miss Harrisons of Canada by allowing, indeed even promoting, a Government day debate, a debate that is not tied to a confidence motion as the Prime Minister tied the last vote—a debate in this House on the whole issue of our country's participation in the development of the Cruise missile.

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Madam Speaker, of course the subject is important, and of course it is being debated all across Canada. It has been debated in this House. It has been debated in the dozens of questions from the Opposition that I have answered on this subject. I do not say that it should not be debated. I say, like the Hon. Member, that we have debated it and, if it is necessary, it can be debated again. But I do not like the simplistic approach of suddenly discovering that our side is testing a weapon when we know, because Mr. Andropov said so much in so many words in his December address, that the Soviets are testing too. They are testing the Cruise.

Mr. Broadbent: I never said that.

Mr. Trudeau: The Leader of the New Democratic Party has some kibbutzing, Madam Speaker. We will hear what he has to say. Has he written to Andropov to tell him to stop testing the Cruise? Has he? He laughs.

Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton): Why do we not send him to Moscow?

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THE ECONOMY

SURVEY BY FEDERATION OF INDEPENDENT BUSINESS

Mr. John A. MacDougall (Timiskaming): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Finance Minister. I am sure that the Minister of Finance is now aware of the Canadian Federation of Independent Business survey which reveals Liberal economic policies have cost some 800,000 Canadians their jobs with small and medium sized businesses. In my riding some of the hardest hit are the welding, fabrication and machine shops, and small foundries. The workers affected are highly skilled tradesmen and technicians. These are people with years of experience.

Can the Minister tell me what hope and encouragement he can offer to the operators of these businesses and the thousands of workers across Canada who have lost their jobs