

Oral Questions

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Mulroney: Of course Canadians quite properly want their jobs back and Canadians want jobs. This is why they so strongly support this Government which has created 630,000 new jobs.

Mr. Rossi: You must be joking.

Mr. Guilbault (Saint-Jacques): The usual baloney.

Mr. Mulroney: I was in the meeting, and my hon. friend asked me a question. I attended part of the meeting. All I can do is tell my hon. friend what took place. Statements of appreciation and support for the action of the Government of Canada were made and I believe were recorded by the media. This is not to suggest that the unions or the business people endorse everything the Government does in every circumstance.

• (1425)

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Mulroney: Oh, oh, oh, the Member says. I said no, no, no to any suggestions to the contrary. Why is there such surprise? I have nothing at variance with the facts that took place while I was there—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Mulroney: I think the surprise—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Broadbent: Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister gets away with this too often in the House. Unless the Prime Minister is prepared to withdraw the comments he made earlier, I am suggesting that he is misleading the House.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I take it the Hon. Member for Oshawa intends an implication to be taken from that statement. I must ask him, therefore, to withdraw it.

Mr. Broadbent: Mr. Speaker, I want to ask the Prime Minister will he—

An Hon. Member: Withdraw.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The Hon. Member, I think, has heard me. I think he intends, at least the Chair, to take an implication from what he has just said. I must, therefore, ask him to withdraw it. If he would please do that then I will hear his question.

Mr. Broadbent: Mr. Speaker, I have absolutely no intention of withdrawing anything I have just said.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Member for Oshawa knows that when questions of fact are involved—perhaps the Hon. Member for Oshawa could listen to this—there is not an issue. I took it that the Hon. Member was implying that the Prime Minister was deliberately misleading the House. That is the intention he intended to leave. If he says to me that is not what he intended, I will accept that. But if that is what he intended, he must withdraw it.

Mr. Broadbent: Mr. Speaker, I sought clarification from the Prime Minister. I gave him the opportunity to clarify remarks that were totally at variance with the truth. Therefore, I have no intention of withdrawing anything I have said this afternoon.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Order, please. I have indicated the Chair's dilemma with the language that was used. I have asked the Hon. Member to help the Chair and indicate what he meant. He is leaving with the Chair the impression that he meant the Chair to understand what the Chair understood. I, therefore, have no choice but to name Mr. Broadbent for failure to respond to a request of order from the Chair and ask him to withdraw. I have no choice in the circumstances.

The Hon. Member for Windsor West.

[*Editor's Note: And Mr. Broadbent having withdrawn.*]

UNION'S POSITION

Hon. Herb Gray (Windsor West): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister. I understand that Jack Munro, president of the union representing the workers in the shake and shingle industry, insists that he and his union representatives did not tell the Prime Minister and the Ministers he met with that they supported the Government's position that there should be compensation rather than protecting and saving the jobs of the 4,000 workers. Why does the Prime Minister insist on his perfectly untenable position that the unions agree with the Government's position on this matter?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I explained to the Hon. Leader of the New Democratic Party that while I was at the meeting, I attended at the beginning of it, and it went on, that there was support expressed for what the Government had done. I indicated that I had not put forward the view that the unions or the business agreed with every action that the Government had taken or contemplated—

Mr. Blaikie: He used the word essential.

Mr. Mulroney: —but that we were moving forward on all fronts to be helpful to British Columbia.