

assurance that he will co-operate fully with these people in order to save these jobs?

Hon. Jean Corbeil (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the hon. member for her abiding interest in this unfortunate sequence of events that recently struck East Montreal.

As the hon. member mentioned, last week I had a meeting with employers, employees and a number of people otherwise involved in this situation. The federal government and the Government of Quebec are very concerned. Every effort is being made to attract a new owner in order to keep the plant open and thus preserve a number of extremely vital jobs.

Mrs. Carole Jacques (Mercier): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary. I would like to know whether the minister has received confirmation from the provincial government regarding its position on this case.

Hon. Jean Corbeil (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, the Government of Quebec, through the Quebec Industrial Development Corporation, has asked for the company to be declared bankrupt so that the case can be settled. A receiver was appointed yesterday, and I repeat that the federal government and the Government of Quebec are working very hard to maintain the company's operations, if at all possible, and to preserve those 1,000 jobs.

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[English]

EMPLOYMENT

Mr. Maurizio Bevilacqua (York North): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Employment and Immigration.

At a time when this government is boasting about its prosperity agenda, 1.5 million Canadians are unemployed. Now Statistics Canada reveals that their job prospects which were already dismal are at their worst point in seven years. With the made-in-Canada recession we saw factory after factory shutting down and jobs vanishing forever.

I ask the minister: When will this government face reality and take all the necessary steps to halt the deindustrialization of this nation and put Canadians back to work?

Oral Questions

Hon. Bernard Valcourt (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, if that member is so concerned about the fate of workers in Canada, I do not know why he and his party and his cohorts in the other place fought Bill C-21 for so long. He likes to talk about unemployed people in this country. These people this year will get \$1.8 billion more in training to adapt to the requirements of the changing economy.

Instead of just grandstanding on the issue, the Liberals should put their foot where their mouth is and support them.

Mr. Maurizio Bevilacqua (York North): I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker.

The government strategy of jobs, jobs, jobs has been a failure, failure, failure. You promised Canadians a worker readjustment program. You have not certainly delivered.

Some hon. members: Order.

Mr. Bevilacqua: The government now speaks to the issue of global competitiveness and at the same time cuts in the areas of education and training, both vital components to compete globally.

Given this government's failed employment strategy, how can Canadians expect the jobs that will enable them to compete against the world?

Hon. Bernard Valcourt (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, we outlined in the Speech from the Throne the will of the government to try something which of course Grits in previous generations never succeeded in doing, that is to bring together the people of Canada to work under the labour force development strategy and to try to get the business sector and labour in Canada to work together so that we could provide our workers, men and women all across Canada, with the tools they need to fill those jobs that are required.

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IMMIGRATION

Mr. Mac Harb (Ottawa Centre): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Employment and Immigration.

The Refugee Review Board has decided to deport the family of Guillermo Jerez saying it is not convinced they would be persecuted if they returned to Nicaragua.