

Oral Questions

the amendments just recently in effect will be an improvement? Will they give the necessary protection against hazardous substances? I remind him that the court did not dispute that secondary smoke constituted a hazardous substance. Will the new Canada Labour Code give the necessary protection?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Pierre H. Cadieux (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, all amendments to the Canada Labour Code are obviously improvements.

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CANADIAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

APPOINTEES' RESUMÉS

Ms. Sheila Copps (Hamilton East): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Justice. I would like to ask the Minister why his office doctored seven of the twenty-eight resumés of applicants to the Canadian Human Rights Commission so that all references to the Progressive Conservative Party were removed before the resumés were sent to parliamentarians for investigation?

Hon. Ray Hnatyshyn (Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada): I thank the Hon. Member for that question. I have been waiting for over a week to be able to set the record straight and say that the allegation is completely false.

A week ago last Thursday while I was in Toronto at the Aboriginal Constitutional Conference, the Hon. Member made an allegation that I was censoring material and interfering with the work of the Committee. After she made that allegation she called my office and asked for a copy of the resumés which were on our file. I am informed that my office immediately sent them to her. There is absolutely no basis of fact in her allegation and, I wish she would withdraw it.

ALLEGED REQUEST TO COMMISSION OFFICIAL

Ms. Sheila Copps (Hamilton East): Can the Minister confirm why, before I raised this question in committee, Mr. Michael Glynn, the Administrator of the Canadian Human Rights Commission, was instructed by his legislative assistant to send copies of the resumés, which at that time included the P.C. connections, not to the committee as was the original request, but to the office of Mr. Hnatyshyn? In the words of his assistant: "No resumé would be released without having it personally reviewed by the Minister." In the meantime, the P.C. connections were lost in the shuffle.

Hon. Ray Hnatyshyn (Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada): I do not accept that version of the facts. When the Hon. Member and another Hon. Member made an inquiry at my office, I am advised that the curricula vitae were

sent directly to those Members. My office called the Commission to find out what material they had. They sent over copies which arrived after the other document had been sent to the Hon. Member.

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ENERGY

PROJECTED LOSS OF JOBS IN ALBERTA ENERGY INDUSTRY

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops—Shuswap): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. The Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources will be well aware of how bad the situation in Alberta is and will know that last week in Alberta the Minister for Manpower released a report indicating that the Government of Alberta projects that 55,000 Albertans will lose their jobs in the next 12 months. The Minister of Employment and Immigration indicated that this was an alarmist figure. My question to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources is: Do you believe the Government of Alberta in its projections of unemployment in that province, or do you support your fellow Minister?

[Translation]

Hon. Marcel Masse (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): I don't think we should make a contest of analyzing the number of people who are experiencing economic problems personally, as a result of the international energy situation. The situation in Alberta is catastrophic, and it is the responsibility of the Government of Canada and the Government of Alberta to do everything they can to improve the situation, and that is what we are doing.

● (1450)

[English]

REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE FOR SMALL COMPANIES

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops—Shuswap): Mr. Speaker, the Minister called the situation catastrophic. Two weeks ago he turned down an invitation to intervene and provide support to small producers and small exploration companies in Alberta. With the new figures indicating that 55,000 people will be losing their jobs in that province in the next twelve months, is the Minister now prepared to intervene and provide the necessary support to small companies?

[Translation]

Hon. Marcel Masse (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, a catastrophic situation demands a response, and not just any kind of response.

For several months, various associations in Alberta have been working with the provincial government, as has been the case everywhere else in Canada, to develop policies. Just because we refused to provide a solution to a general problem does not mean the Government is insensitive. In fact, we felt